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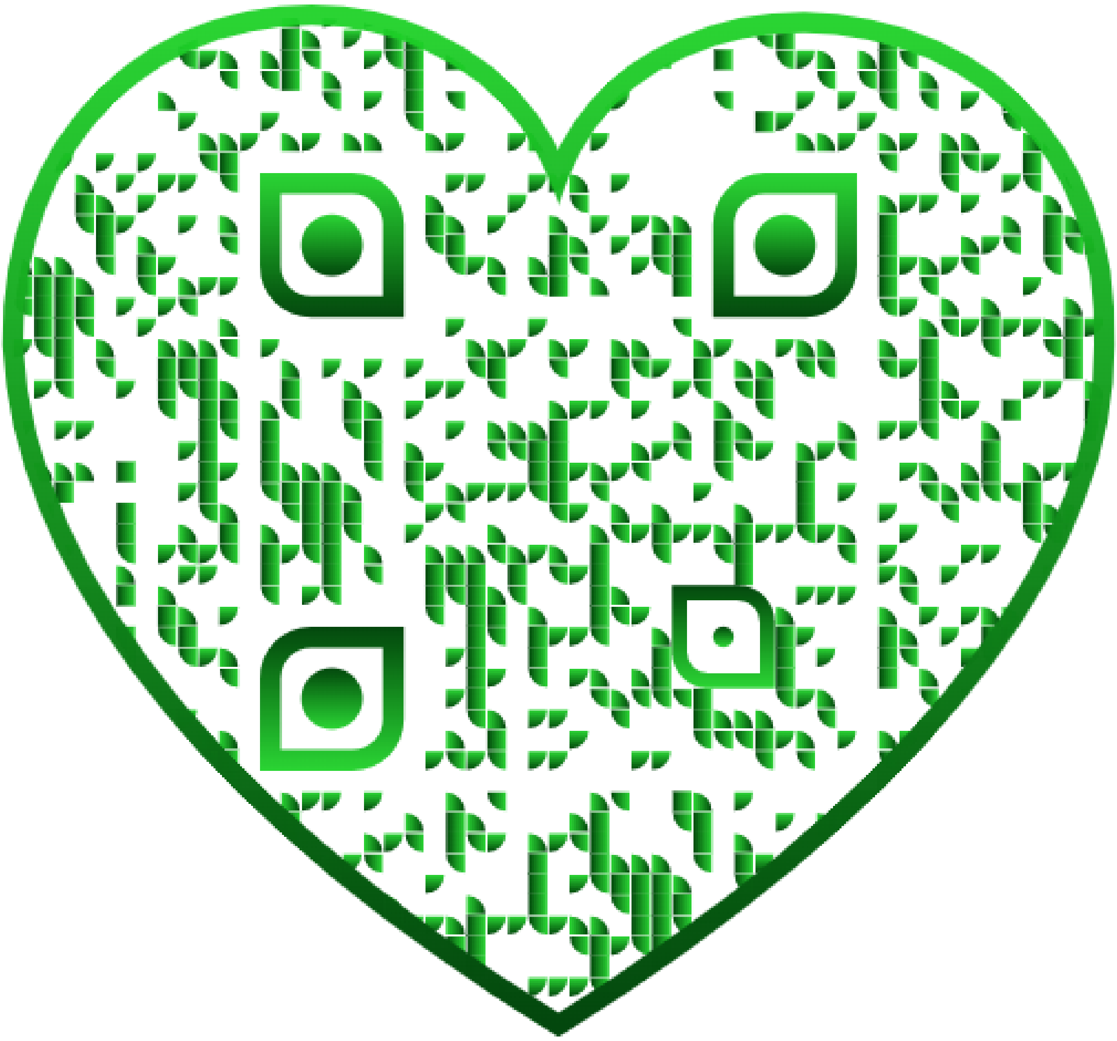

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# Top 50 Rooms

# CALL FOR ENTRIES

Are you a design professional with a fabulous new residential project to share? Enter the *Australian House & Garden* Top 50 Rooms competition, celebrating creatives from around the country.

## Submissions open

*Australian House & Garden*, together with leading retailer Winnings, is delighted to announce that entries are now open for the 2025 Top 50 Rooms showcase. Now in its 27th year, the competition features gorgeous rooms in a diverse range of categories, championing innovation and aesthetic appeal in Australian interior design. We're looking for projects that display an outstanding commitment to quality, creativity and functional design. The winners and short-listed entries will appear in the October 2025 issue of *Australian House & Garden*.

## 2025 Top 50 Rooms categories:

- Best Kitchen
- Best Bathroom
- Best Indoor-Outdoor Connection
- Best Bedroom
- Best Use of Materials
- Best Use of Soft Furnishings
- Best Laundry
- Best Use of Colour
- Rising Star
- Readers' Choice.

## How to enter

You will find entry forms and guidelines for submissions via the link below: **homestolove.com.au/Top50.**

A fee of $50 + GST per entry applies (you may enter multiple categories: a $50 + GST fee will apply to each entry).

For full Terms and Conditions, visit aremedia.com.au/competitions. For any further details, please email h&g@aremedia.com.au.

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Pictured is the 2024 Room of the Year, designed by Madeleine Blanchfield Architects. Styling by Jack Milenkovic. Photograph by Pablo Veiga.

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## Modern Country

# AUGUST

### *Cover stories*

17 **Myer House & Garden homewares** Half price offer.
18 **Modern Country** Elegant interiors beyond the city.
44 **Winter Warmers** Elevated comfort food.
51 **The art of the find** How to shop auctions like a stylist.
180 **In the Garden with Collette Dinnigan**
36 **Stylescape with Sophie Wilson** Curate a soothing living room look taking cues from this H&G expert.
51 **Little Black Book** Melissa Penfold and Isabella Walker-Smith examine one of the best ways to find that perfect antique: auction houses.
194 **The Creative Type** Leading Melbourne-based interior designer Lucinda Kimpton.

### *Decorating & design*

32 **Heart of the Home** Australian materials are the focus of a Laminex and Tom Mark Henry collaboration.

### *Entertaining*

43 **Double Date** Delightful one-pot wonders made for two, perfect for warming up chilly nights in.

Photograph by Stephanie Rooney.

## *Houses*

18 **Manor from Heaven** Louella Grattan-Smith transforms a historic building in Moss Vale, NSW, into an architectural guesthouse.
58 **Living the High Life** A Winter Olympian-turned-designer creates a family getaway in the Victorian Alps.
76 **Good Connections** Sophistication and ease combine in a grown-up Highlands weekender.
92 **Raise the Roof** Sweeping ceilings and stone-clad walls in the Barossa.
110 **Dramatic Scene** A sleek build for a family on the Mornington Peninsula.
126 **Bridging the Gap** A lofty architectural design blends with the landscape in coastal Victoria.
140 **Cottage Industry** A Tasmanian guesthouse embraces tradition.
152 **Southern Belle** A picture-perfect refurbishment in southern NSW.
166 **Bucolic Bliss** An interior designer neighbour takes on this farmhouse with beautiful results.

## *Gardens*

180 **Wild Whimsy** Collette Dinnigan combines creative trial-and-error with traditional order in her backyard.
191 **Paddock to Patio** Garden shopping.

## *For our readers*

8 **Subscribe and save**
16 **Privacy notice**

**On our cover**
This Southern Highlands, NSW, cottage was photographed by Milly Mead and styled by Kerrie-Ann Jones. Interiors by Sally Wilkins Studio. See page 152.

Photograph by Stephanie Rooney.

BRAND PROMOTION

# STILL BEAUTY

Exuding a muted warmth and sophistication, the Still palette from the Dulux Colour Forecast 2025 inspires a sense of calm.

ON WALLS: DULUX WASH & WEAR IN CLAY PIPE

## SLOW AND STEADY

Set against the comforting rituals of everyday life, subdued colours in your home can act as a soothing balm for all the change and uncertainty in the world outside. For Dulux Colour Manager Lauren Treloar, the Dulux Colour Forecast 2025 Still palette harnesses the quest for peace and calm in a suite of colours inspiredby nature.

"Dulux Still has an instantly calming effect that can create a nourishing and comforting environment," she says. "The palette is subdued, with warm grey emerging as an accent against yellow-based neutrals and greens, blending with greyed-off and serene cool blues."

## NATURAL INSPIRATION

Styling using the Still palette is relatively straightforward, with the use of neutrals, texture, undyed textiles, eco-friendly and non-toxic materials and finishes, plus design pieces developed for their circular sustainability. "Stone, ceramics, wood, organic cotton, linen and hemp are seen alongside patterns that feature primitive 'line work'-style patterns," says Lauren.

If you're keen to experiment with the Still palette, she suggests working with a Dulux sample pot or sticker to ensure you are confident in how the colours will work in your space. "It's amazing the degree to which light, ceiling height and space can influence colour. You'll never regret doing a few colour tests first."

### WHY CHOOSE DULUX?

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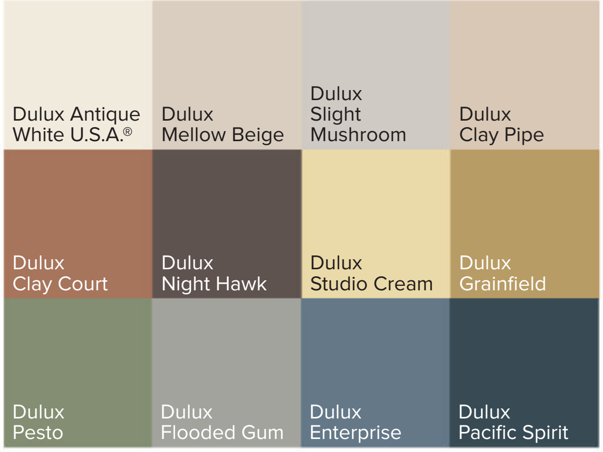
Try the Still palette in your home with a Dulux sample pot or sticker. Visit dulux.com.au



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| Dulux Antique White U.S.A.® | Dulux Mellow Beige | Dulux Slight Mushroom | Dulux Clay Pipe |
| Dulux Clay Court | Dulux Night Hawk | Dulux Studio Cream | Dulux Grainfield |
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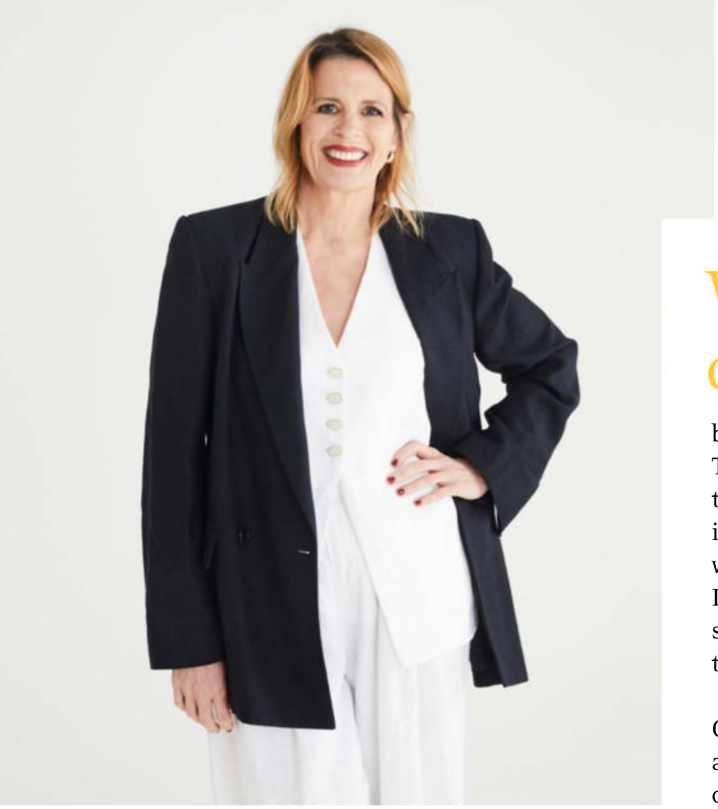


## Whenever I venture beyond the city limits, an Australian classic

by The Triffids, *Wide Open Road*, is the soundtrack playing in my head. There's something about the Australian countryside that speaks directly to the soul – its beauty, mystery, unpredictability and character, and the innate sense of connection that it fosters with nature. Even those of us who live in the city seem to have an inbuilt affinity with rural Australia. In this special country themed issue, we celebrate that uniquely Australian spirit, exploring the length and breadth of our landscape through homes that blend heritage with heart, and design with deep-rooted authenticity.

We begin in the NSW Southern Highlands with Moss Manor, a restored Georgian beauty brought back to life by Louella Grattan-Smith and architect Luke Moloney. Written by Eliza O'Hare, this story is a celebration of perseverance (Louella had admired this building for many years) and a love for historical architecture; see page 18. Not far away, we meet designer Collette Dinnigan in her glorious garden sanctuary in Bowral – a space that she has created and planted mostly herself, with guidance from her late friend, garden designer Harriette Conway. I love that Collette chooses her roses based on scent rather than colour. I have a similar rule in my garden – fragrant flowers only, with the exceptions of hydrangeas and camellias! Turn to page 180 for the full feature.

From weatherboard cottages and sandstone homesteads to bold architectural feats in the bush, our featured homes this month reflect the diversity of regional living. Don't miss the remarkable alpine home of former Olympic snowboarder and now-designer Joh Lyle, tucked into the snowy folds of the Victorian Alps. This contemporary rural retreat sits in the landscape beautifully and is a robust home for the family and their visitors; page 58.

Meanwhile, The Creative Type this month is designer Lucinda Kimpton, who shares her thoughts on balancing family life with creative work (a topic that resonates with many of us!), and the projects that have inspired her journey. See page 194. On the culinary front, Amanda Cordony plates up winter dinners for two – think golden, pan-fried gnocchi and deeply comforting seasonal fare, page 43. Also in this issue, Melissa Penfold and Isabella Walker-Smith present a thorough guide to the auction houses worth watching, decoding the world of collectables, antiques and emerging treasures with their typical flair and insider knowledge, page 51.

Finally, don't miss our fabulous offer: 50-per-cent off the *Australian House & Garden* range at Myer. It's our way of saying thank you for being part of our creative, ever-evolving community. See page 17 for details.

Tanya Buchanan

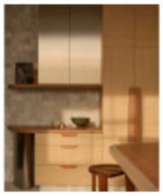
**TANYA BUCHANAN, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

### WISH LIST

**1** Waverley Mills x bernabeifreeman 'Bask' Merino wool **throw** in Orchid, $329, Waverley Mills.

**2** 'Millennia Bold' limited-edition **quilt cover** in Snow, $419 (Queen), Sheridan.

**3** Mud Australia x Frost*collective 'House Letters' **typography**, from $95, Mud Australia.



**4** 'True to Nature: Next Generation Woodgrains' **collection**, Laminex.

Portrait photograph by Kristina Šoljo. Hair and make-up by Sam Powell.
Tanya wears an Oroton blazer and Dissh vest and pants.

AUSTRALIAN HOUSE & GARDEN

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## *H&G* social

### *Our posts that made your month.*

A fabulous farmhouse for a family of four gathered clicks on Facebook; a magical makeover for an Edwardian home's garden inspired over on Instagram, and a striking redesign hiding behind a traditional facade in Sydney was the most pinned on Pinterest.

**Facebook facebook.com/australianhouseandgarden**
Highlights from each issue plus links to tours of our favourite homes.

**Instagram @houseandgarden**
View the most inspirational images of the month from *H&G* headquarters and out and about.

**Pinterest pinterest.com.au/houseandgardenau**
Picture-perfect images from our pages and sensational products to covet.

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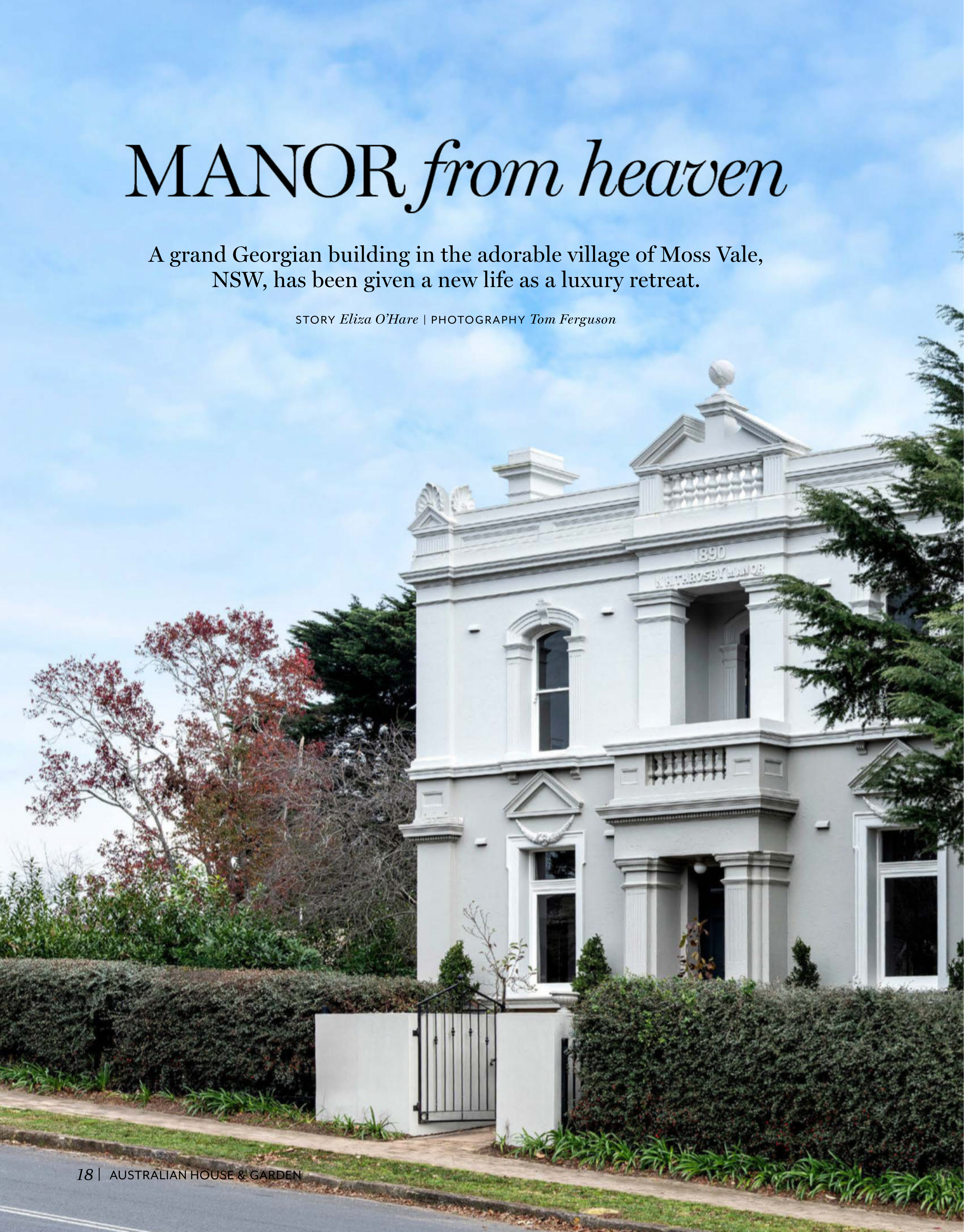
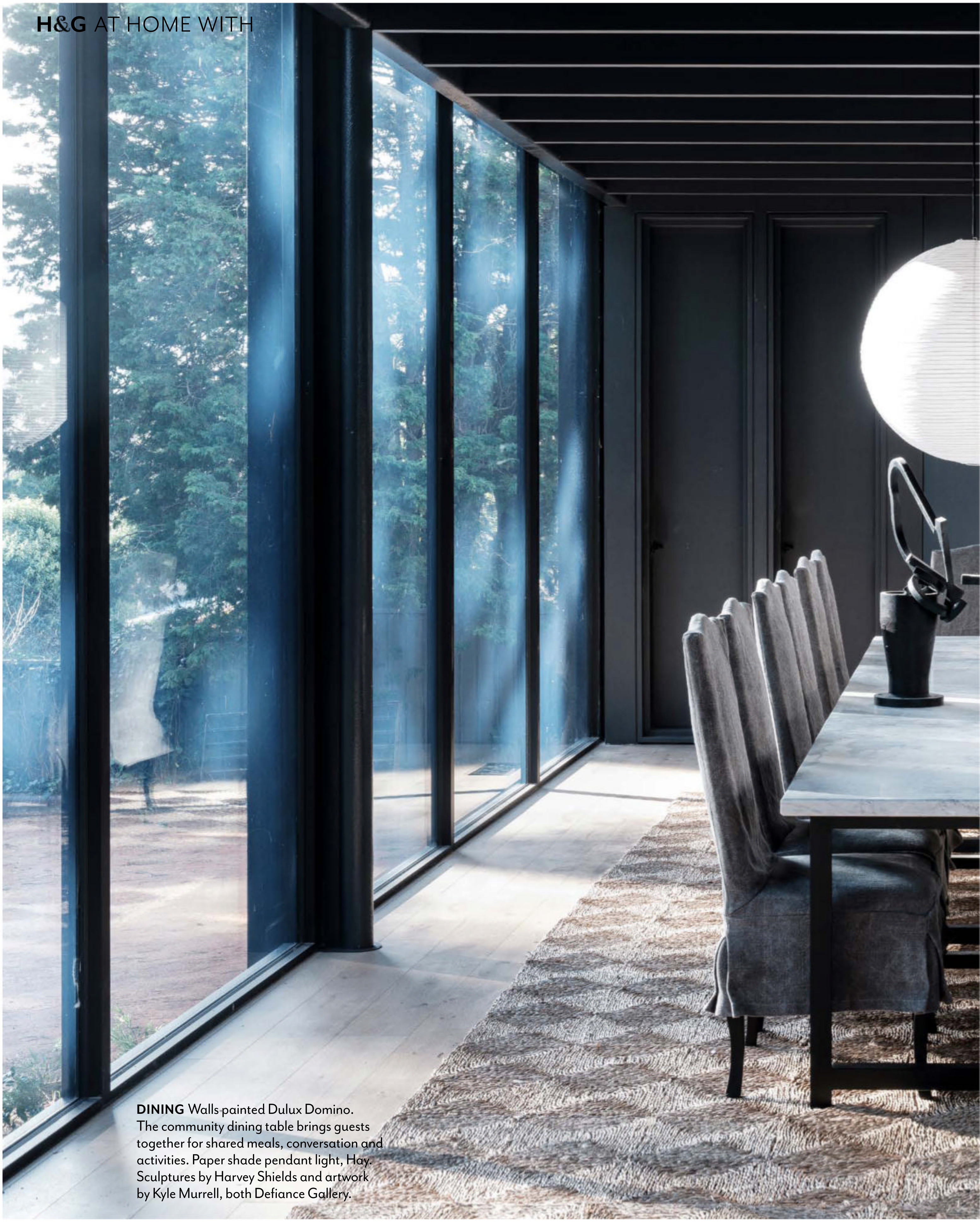
# MANOR *from heaven*

A grand Georgian building in the adorable village of Moss Vale, NSW, has been given a new life as a luxury retreat.

STORY *Eliza O'Hare* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Tom Ferguson*



**EXTERIOR** Facade painted Murobond Quarry full-strength on the base and half-strength on the first floor to create contrast.



**DINING** Walls painted Dulux Domino. The community dining table brings guests together for shared meals, conversation and activities. Paper shade pendant light, Hay. Sculptures by Harvey Shields and artwork by Kyle Murrell, both Defiance Gallery.

“I think we should buy it!” Louella Grattan-Smith remembers declaring to her husband, Tony. They had just heard that a sale had fallen through on the building she had been admiring for decades, the old Moss Vale Municipal Council Chambers, a Georgian commercial building constructed in 1890 - and it was up for grabs again. “Literally, I think this is one of the prettiest buildings in all of the Southern Highlands,” says Louella.

Louella, a GP and psychotherapist, has two great passions in life: medicine and design. A career spent helping patients, physically and mentally, inspired an exploration of modern wellness and Eastern philosophies, with a big focus on the power of meditation. “I became very aware that how you exist in this world has an enormous effect on your physical wellbeing. I just love everything there is about what it means to be a human being. I’m fascinated by the philosophy, the psychology and the psychotherapy,” she explains.

But she also loves interiors, architecture and design. “I love the sense of beauty in architecture and interiors, so when I saw the house I thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be fun to run a retreat?’ ”

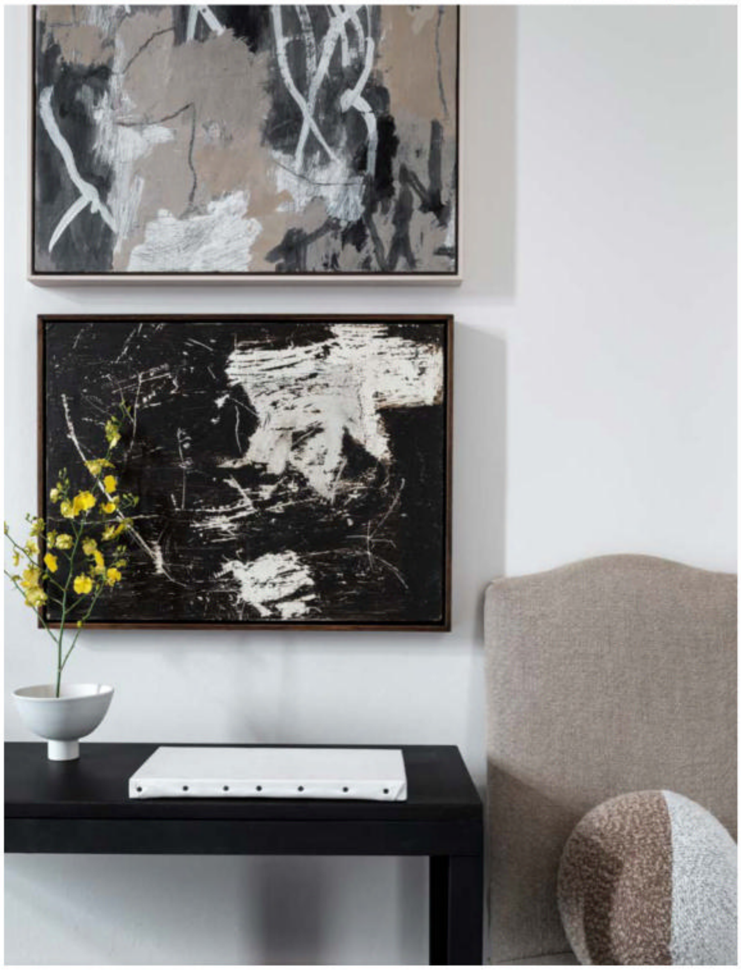
It was a grand plan for a hospitality novice, but Louella doubled down and compiled a vision of all the things she’d loved whenever she had stayed somewhere special. “I wanted to be inspired by beautiful surroundings. I wanted to feel that the people there were kind - like an old friend. I think when you go somewhere, what you really remember is how you felt at that place,” she says. This vision formed the foundation of Moss Manor, a place where her values of community, generosity and beauty could thrive and be shared.

For the kind of deeply emotional architecture that would be required, she turned to Luke Moloney, who had designed Louella and Tony’s family home in the Southern Highlands. “Apart from being a lovely man, he’s a beautiful architect and I loved working with him on our house.” ▶

**VERANDAH** Walls painted Porter's Paints Aniseed. Louella Grattan-Smith and Luke Moloney. **EXTENSION** The striking modernist extension throws contrast to the original building. **NOOK** Walls painted Dulux Domino.

"I wanted something very simple: a big glass box that we could sit in and look out." LOUELLA GRATTAN-SMITH, OWNER

**HALLWAY** Walls painted Dulux Antique White U.S.A. Artworks by Joe Furlonger, Defiance Gallery. **LANDING** Table designed by Louella and made locally. **FIREPLACE** Artwork by David Collins, Defiance Gallery. Fire dogs made by Louella using fabricated steel. **KITCHEN** Luke Moloney's dog, Miniature Schnauzer Lottie (or 2IC as Louella calls her), was a regular on site. Carrara marble benchtop. Chair, Lawsons. Chopping board, Dirty Janes Antique Emporium.



"I knew I wanted something simple: a big glass box that we could sit in and look out over the beautiful, old cherry tree," she says.

The job list was drawn up – Louella would tackle the interior design, and the original Georgian features would be restored. All eight bedrooms needed to be decorated in individual styles and marble ensuites installed, the kitchen needed a do-over, but the most important element would be the striking extension that would hold a generous group dining at one end and a cluster of lounges at the other. "I wanted a sense of community. Guests have become friends here – they don't know anyone at first, then they sit down for breakfast at this long table together," she says.

At first, Louella considered stark white walls for the extension, but because the ambient brief was to bring a sense of peace, warmth and cosiness, she decided on walls of rich and moody Dulux Domino. "I wanted the extension to be dark so it flows seamlessly from the Georgian style at the front to this modern extension at the back. It's very beautifully constructed and sharp."

The existing kitchen was never meant to work as a large commercial space, but Louella has really upped the ante. "It's very high-functioning, efficient and well laid out. We've even had chef Stefano Manfredi come down and do a dinner for 22 people out of this kitchen," she reveals. But to her surprise, her favourite element in the kitchen is the Zip tap. "It has transformed our lives – we use it constantly."

Because of the nature of the building, Louella leaned into an English country aesthetic for the rest of the interiors. "I got to mix and match patterns and fringing, but I also wanted the artwork to be modern so you have this sort of juxtaposition. ▶

**NOOK** "This is one of Frank Gehry's original 'Wiggle' chairs, which I absolutely love. It's an artwork in itself," says Louella. **RUBY SUITE** Artworks by Ana Pollak (top) and Kyle Murrell (bottom), both Defiance Gallery. **DAISY SUITE** Pendant light, Beacon Lighting. Bed linen, Bed Bath N' Table. Armoire, Lawsons. Artwork by David Collins, Defiance Gallery.

"If everything is in the same style, it can feel a bit like you've just walked into a furniture store," she says, laughing.

The eight bedrooms each have their own style. The Ruby Suite is suspected to be the old vault of the municipal chambers. "We've laid black subway tiles up the walls and across the ceiling to create a cave with brass fittings," says Louella. The dramatic bath placement in the bedroom of The Sophia Suite was inspired by acclaimed Australian interior designer Michael Love. "Thirty-five years ago I remember seeing his apartment in a magazine with a Roman marble bath in a bedroom and I became obsessed – this was finally my opportunity!"

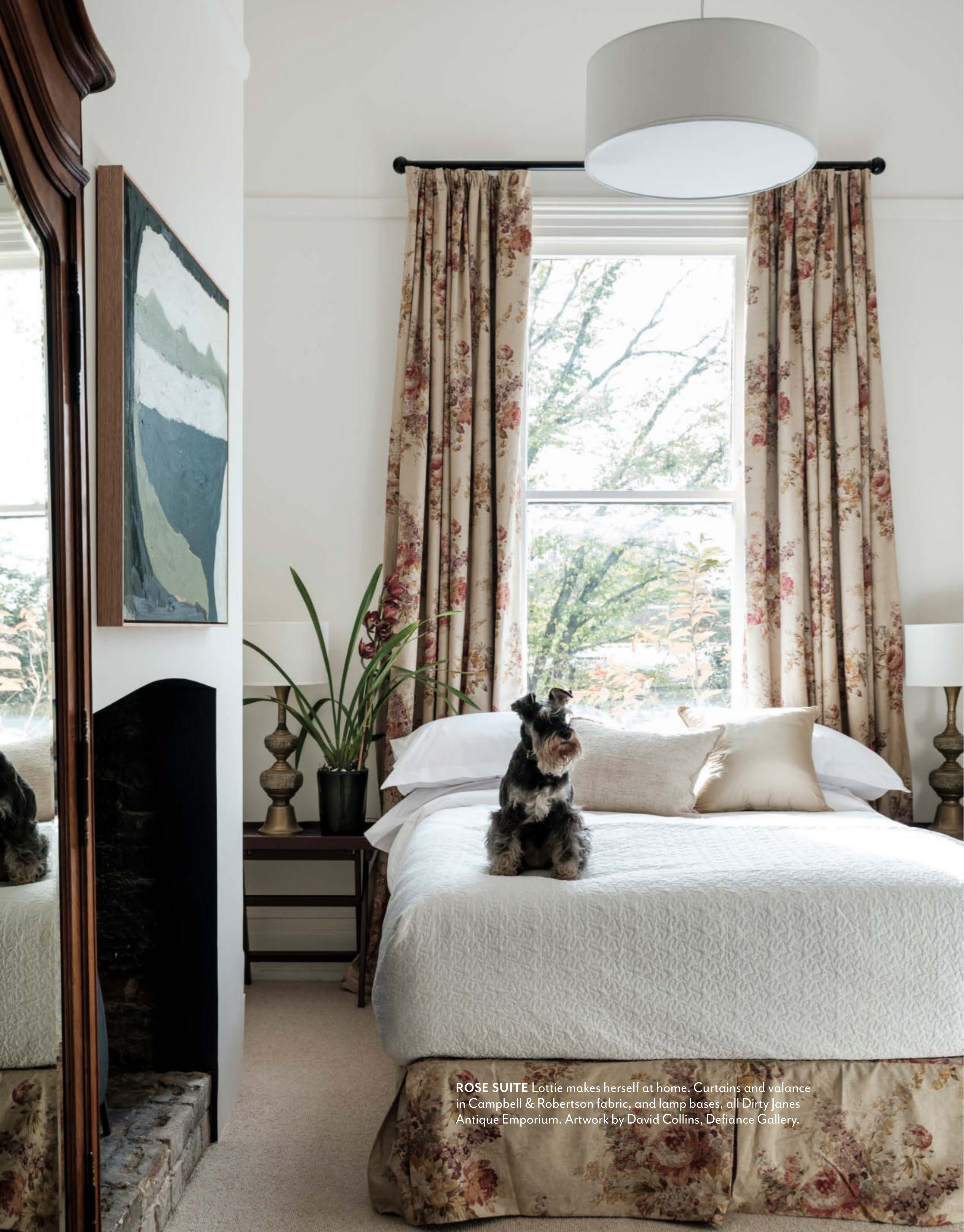
But right now, she is very much present in the moment, focused on sharing this curated space and the values of community, generosity and beauty as a daily practice. "If we could all sit back just for a moment and look at the beauty that surrounds us," she says, "in the trees, the birds, in nature, we would all be a lot happier." ▶

***Moss Manor:** mossmanor.au. **Luke Moloney Architecture:** lukemoloney.com.au.*

**SOPHIA SUITE** Walls painted Dulux Antique White U.S.A. Garage, purchased at garage sale. 'Petra' carpet in Damascus, Carpet Court.

> "If everything is in the same style, it can feel like you've walked into a furniture store."

LOUELLA GRATTAN-SMITH, OWNER

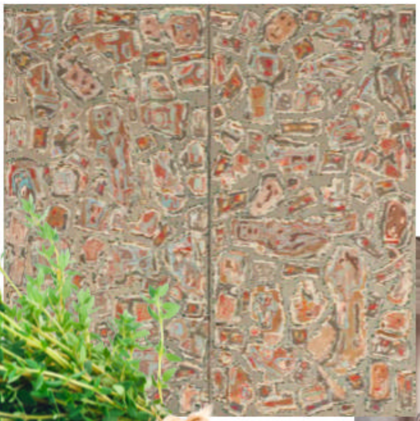


**ROSE SUITE** Lottie makes herself at home. Curtains and valance in Campbell & Robertson fabric, and lamp bases, all Dirty Janes Antique Emporium. Artwork by David Collins, Defiance Gallery.

# LIFE & STYLE

*Louella Grattan-Smith shares a few of her favourite things.*

1



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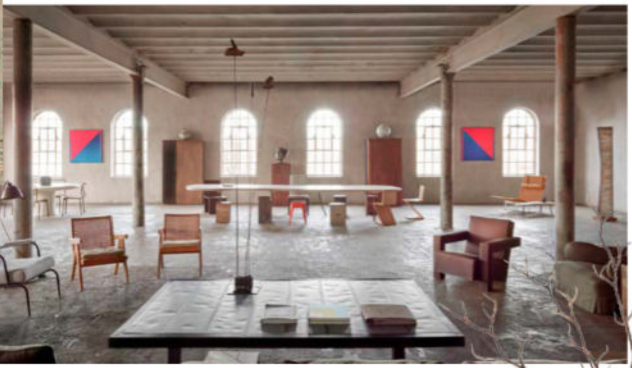

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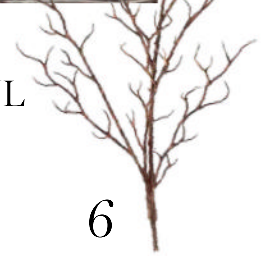


> “NOTHING IS MORE DELIGHTFUL THAN BRUSHING PAST HERBS IN THE GARDEN.”

I REALLY DON’T LOVE COOKING... unless I have a lot of time. Then it has to be simple, prepared in advance and delicious. Ottolenghi has some great recipes. Chicken with miso ginger and soy, and for dessert apple tarte tatin. So easy.

I’M CURRENTLY READING A FABULOUS BOOK. It’s called *The Master and His Emissary: The divided brain and the making of the Western world* by Iain McGilchrist (psychiatrist and philosopher), a fabulous book about the right and left sides of the brain and their particular influence on Western thought and culture. Game-changing, both personally and culturally.

FAVOURITE DESIGNERS/ARCHITECTS Axel Vervoordt (5), in particular his capacity to mix antique and modern with Wabi-sabi influences. His use of colours, linens and textures is amazing and unpretentious. A fabulous architect is Vincent Van Duysen, especially the use of natural textures stones and wood.

FAVOURITE FRAGRANCE I love burning incense at home. A particular favourite is Astier de Villatte Villa Médicis (4). And I love the scent of fresh herbs from the garden (3); nothing is more delightful than brushing past herbs in the garden.

FAVOURITE MOVIE *The Darjeeling Limited*.

I LOVE FILLING VASES WITH... twigs and sculptural branches (6). They’re fantastic on their own or as a background to fresh greenery and flowers.

THE NEXT DESTINATION I’D LIKE TO VISIT On my next trip, I’d like to go to Copenhagen with the family.

FAVOURITE RESTAURANT This is so hard to answer but we love Hong Kong Restaurant in Moss Vale, NSW. It has everything you would expect decor wise from a country Chinese restaurant and the food is fabulous. A fun family night out.

MY DREAM CAR You would need to ask my other half. I really don’t think about cars much but it would need to be electric or hybrid at the very least.

HOMEWARES I HAVE MY EYE ON It depends whether they are for Moss Manor or home? I will know it when I see it!

FAVOURITE ARTISTS Peter Godwin, Roy Jackson (1), Elisabeth Cummings and emerging artist Kyle Murrell.

FASHION ESSENTIAL Jillian Boustred overalls, Comme des Garçons Converse (2) and Brunello Cucinelli black riding boots.

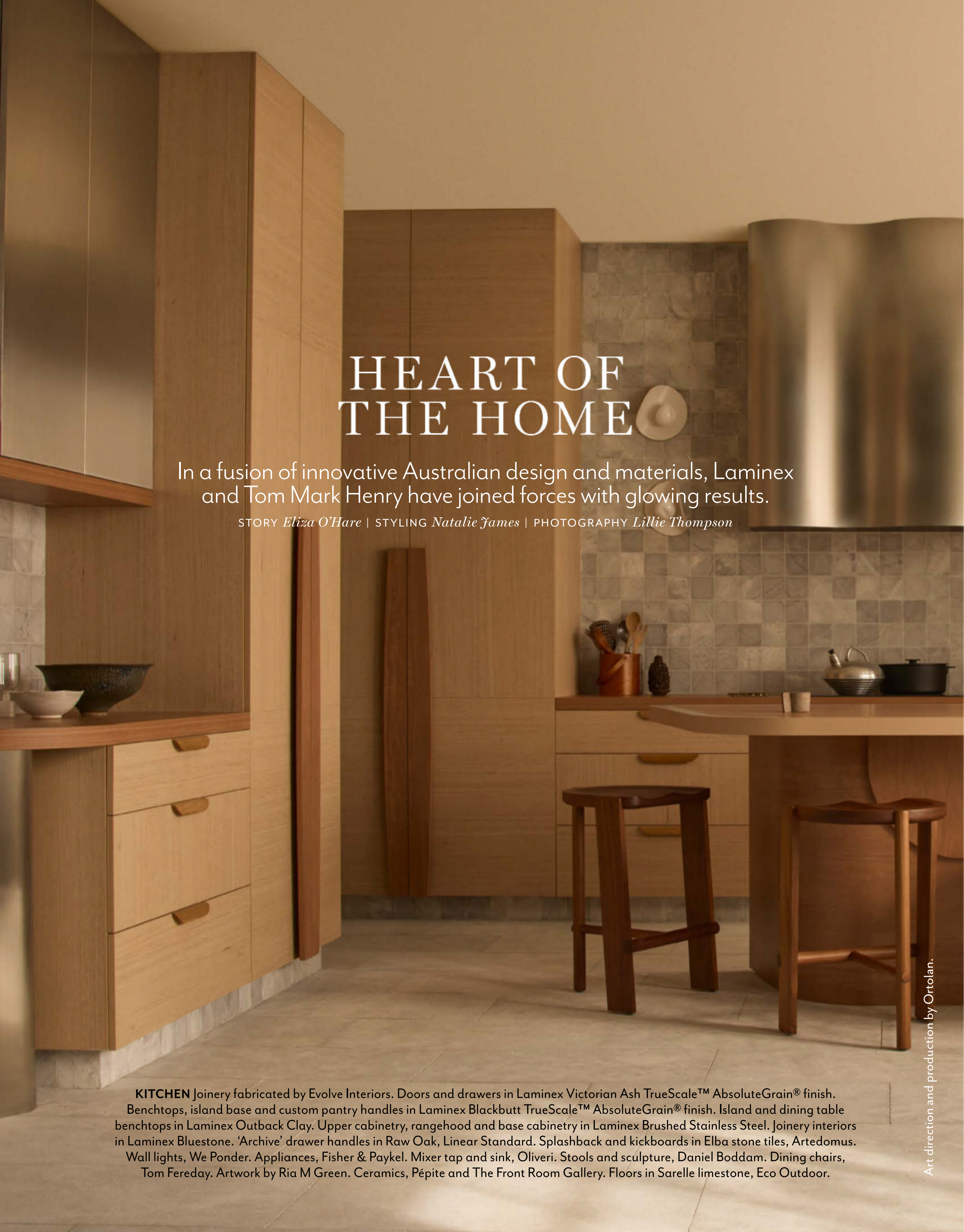
I CAN’T LIVE WITHOUT... Easy: my family. **H&G**

*Gilgai Gibber Plains* 1994 artwork by Roy Jackson (1). Photograph by Getty Images (3). Photograph of Axel Vervoodt Antwerp (5).

# HEART OF THE HOME

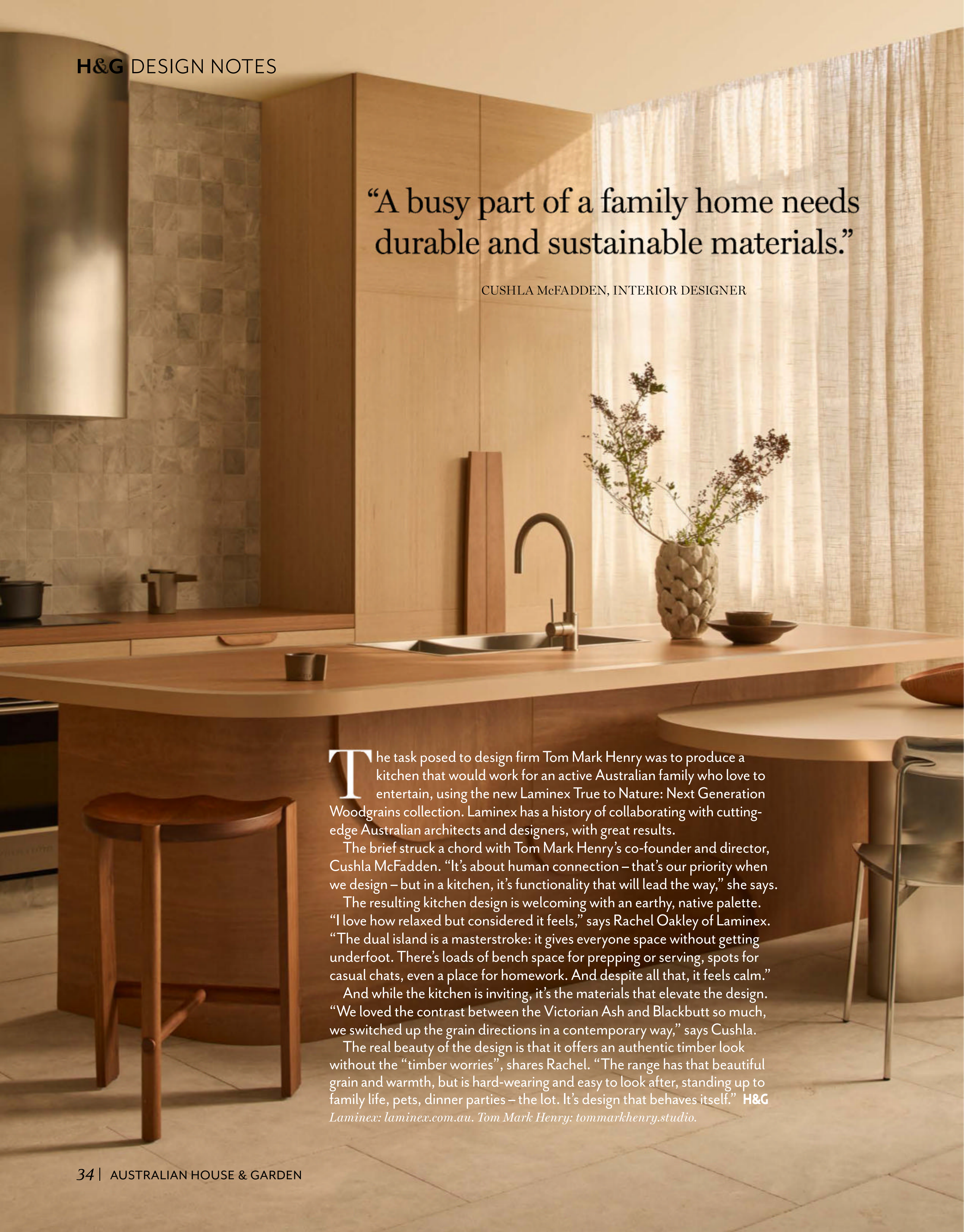
In a fusion of innovative Australian design and materials, Laminex and Tom Mark Henry have joined forces with glowing results.

STORY *Eliza O'Hare* | STYLING *Natalie James* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Lillie Thompson*



**KITCHEN** Joinery fabricated by Evolve Interiors. Doors and drawers in Laminex Victorian Ash TrueScale™ AbsoluteGrain® finish. Benchtops, island base and custom pantry handles in Laminex Blackbutt TrueScale™ AbsoluteGrain® finish. Island and dining table benchtops in Laminex Outback Clay. Upper cabinetry, rangehood and base cabinetry in Laminex Brushed Stainless Steel. Joinery interiors in Laminex Bluestone. 'Archive' drawer handles in Raw Oak, Linear Standard. Splashback and kickboards in Elba stone tiles, Artedomus. Wall lights, We Ponder. Appliances, Fisher & Paykel. Mixer tap and sink, Oliveri. Stools and sculpture, Daniel Boddam. Dining chairs, Tom Fereday. Artwork by Ria M Green. Ceramics, Pépite and The Front Room Gallery. Floors in Sarelle limestone, Eco Outdoor.

Art direction and production by Ortolan.



> “A busy part of a family home needs durable and sustainable materials.”
>
> CUSHLA McFADDEN, INTERIOR DESIGNER

The task posed to design firm Tom Mark Henry was to produce a kitchen that would work for an active Australian family who love to entertain, using the new Laminex True to Nature: Next Generation Woodgrains collection. Laminex has a history of collaborating with cutting-edge Australian architects and designers, with great results.

The brief struck a chord with Tom Mark Henry’s co-founder and director, Cushla McFadden. “It’s about human connection – that’s our priority when we design – but in a kitchen, it’s functionality that will lead the way,” she says.

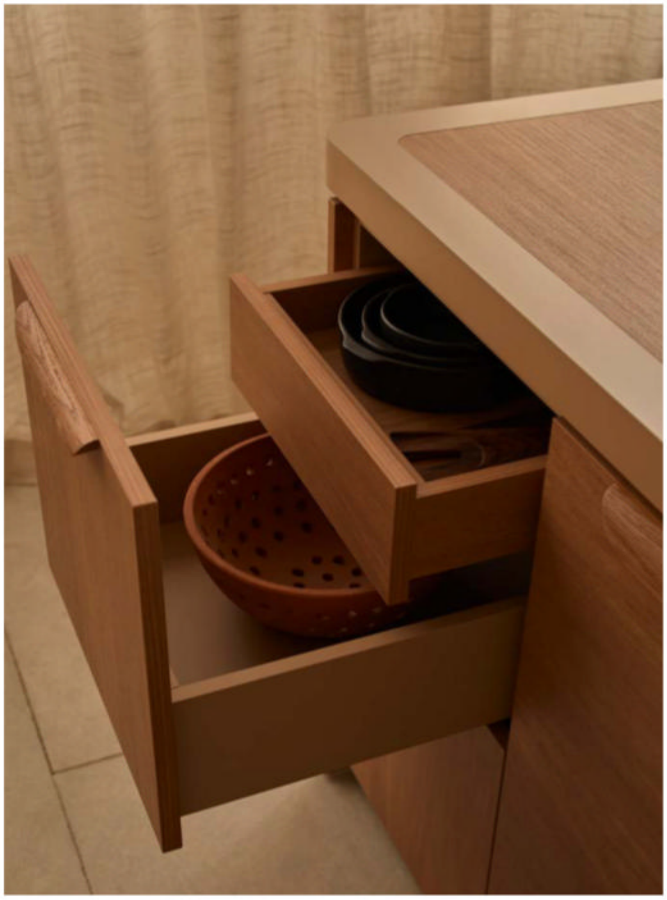
The resulting kitchen design is welcoming with an earthy, native palette. “I love how relaxed but considered it feels,” says Rachel Oakley of Laminex. “The dual island is a masterstroke: it gives everyone space without getting underfoot. There’s loads of bench space for prepping or serving, spots for casual chats, even a place for homework. And despite all that, it feels calm.”

And while the kitchen is inviting, it’s the materials that elevate the design. “We loved the contrast between the Victorian Ash and Blackbutt so much, we switched up the grain directions in a contemporary way,” says Cushla.

The real beauty of the design is that it offers an authentic timber look without the “timber worries”, shares Rachel. “The range has that beautiful grain and warmth, but is hard-wearing and easy to look after, standing up to family life, pets, dinner parties – the lot. It’s design that behaves itself.” **H&G**

*Laminex: laminex.com.au. Tom Mark Henry: tommarkhenry.studio.*

**FINER DETAILS** *Above left* Contrasting grains in Laminex Victorian Ash and Blackbutt TrueScale™ AbsoluteGrain® finish add visual depth. *Above right* Laminex Brushed Stainless Steel acts as a visual and textural foil to the woodgrains and camouflages a hidden bar. *Below left* A flat lay of the material selection. *Below right* A drawer-in-drawer design is space-saving and streamlines the exterior look with minimal drawer faces.

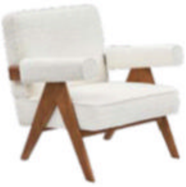


# Stylescape

## *with* SOPHIE WILSON

Our *H&G* stylist has composed an inviting living room scheme by layering warm tones, buttery soft textiles and curved profiles.

### TOP FIVE *armchairs*

1


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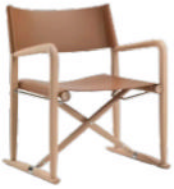

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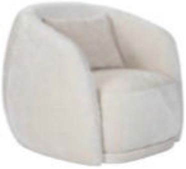

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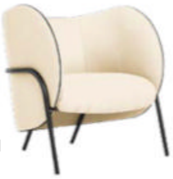

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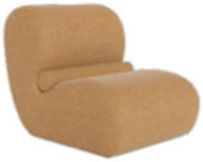


**1** 'Artie' **armchair**, $1495, MCM House. **2** Flexform 'Luchino' **armchair**, POA, Fanuli. **3** 'Carson' swivel **armchair** in Jude Light Beige, $1299, OZ Design. **4** SP01 'Royce' **armchair**, $4475, Space. **5** 'Bea' fabric **occasional chair** in Pacific Basket Weave Caramel, $1399, Freedom. **PORTRAIT** Sophie's dress, Dissh. *Carre Clair* canvas **art print**, $499.95, Olive et Oriel. 'Zoe' **sofa**, POA, Fanuli. 'Allard' **ottoman**, $840, Rachel Donath. Large **lampshade**, $100, Soffle. 'Fern' **wallpaper** in Green, Milton & King.

Words by Bethan Lacoba. Portrait photograph by Alana Landsberry. Land photograph by Jacqui Turk and styling by Katherine Brennan.

**LIVING SCULPTURE**

Select sculptural forms to add moments of interest. 'Henry' coffee table, $1899, OZ Design.

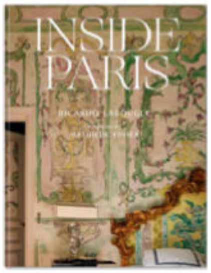
Continue the theme of *curved motifs* to create a sense of COHESION and *visual flow*. 'Claude' lounge in Avocado Green, $5400, Merci Maison.

**FINE ACCENT**

Look to sophisticated finishing details such as fringes and pleats, as seen on the 'Super Fringe' cushions and 'Etheridge' sofa from Land.

Soft Moss velvet COCOONS the *'Kennedy Axis' occasional chair*, $2485, GlobeWest. ▶

## *Inspiring* LOOKBOOKS

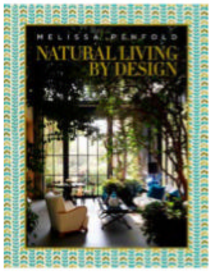

INSIDE PARIS

*Inside Paris* by
Ricardo Labougle,
$145, Amazon.

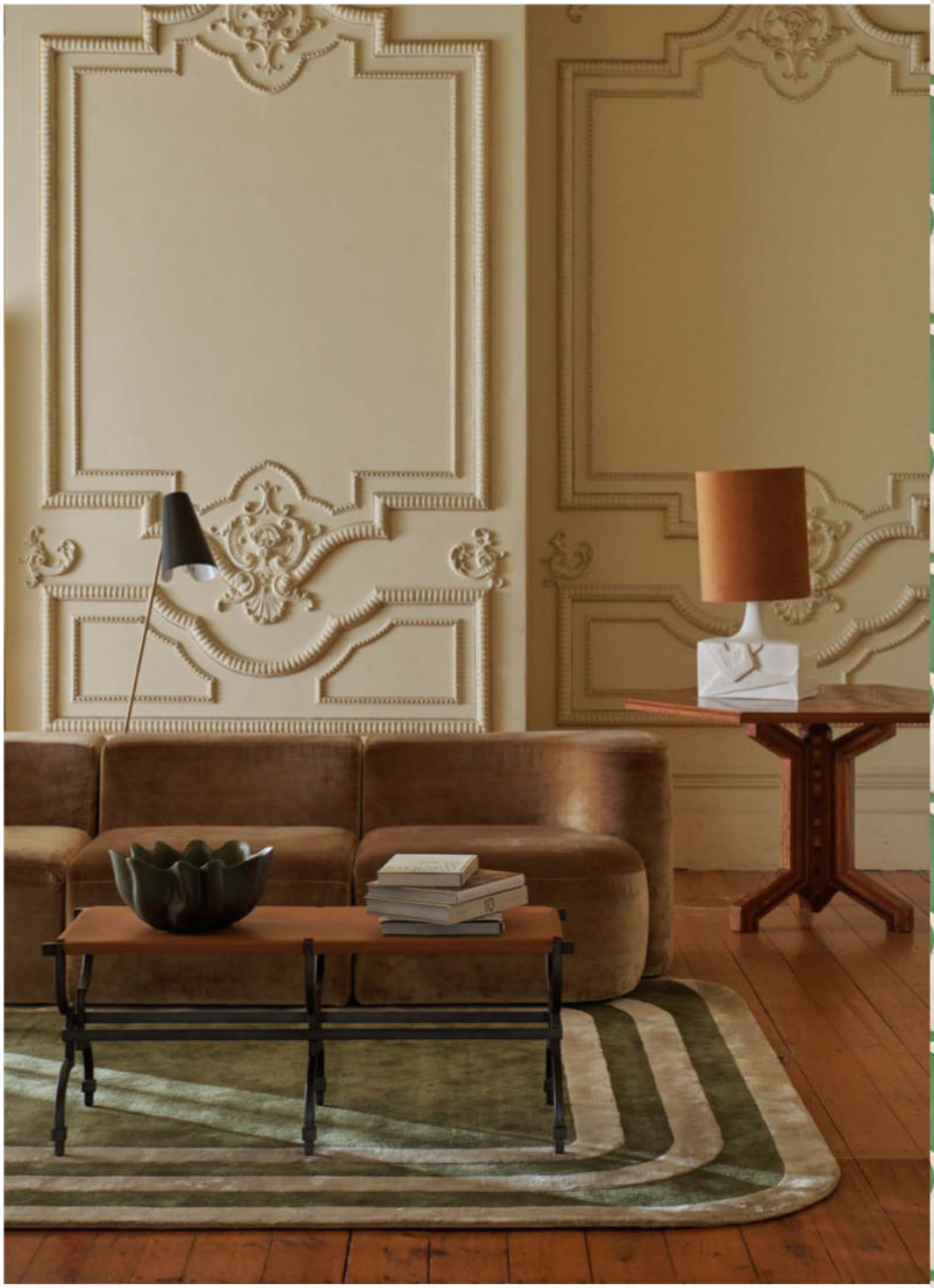
SAFARI STYLE

*Safari Style* by
Guido Taroni,
$120, Amazon.

*Room Service* by
Michael McGregor,
$55.47, Amazon.


MELISSA PENFOLD
NATURAL LIVING
BY DESIGN

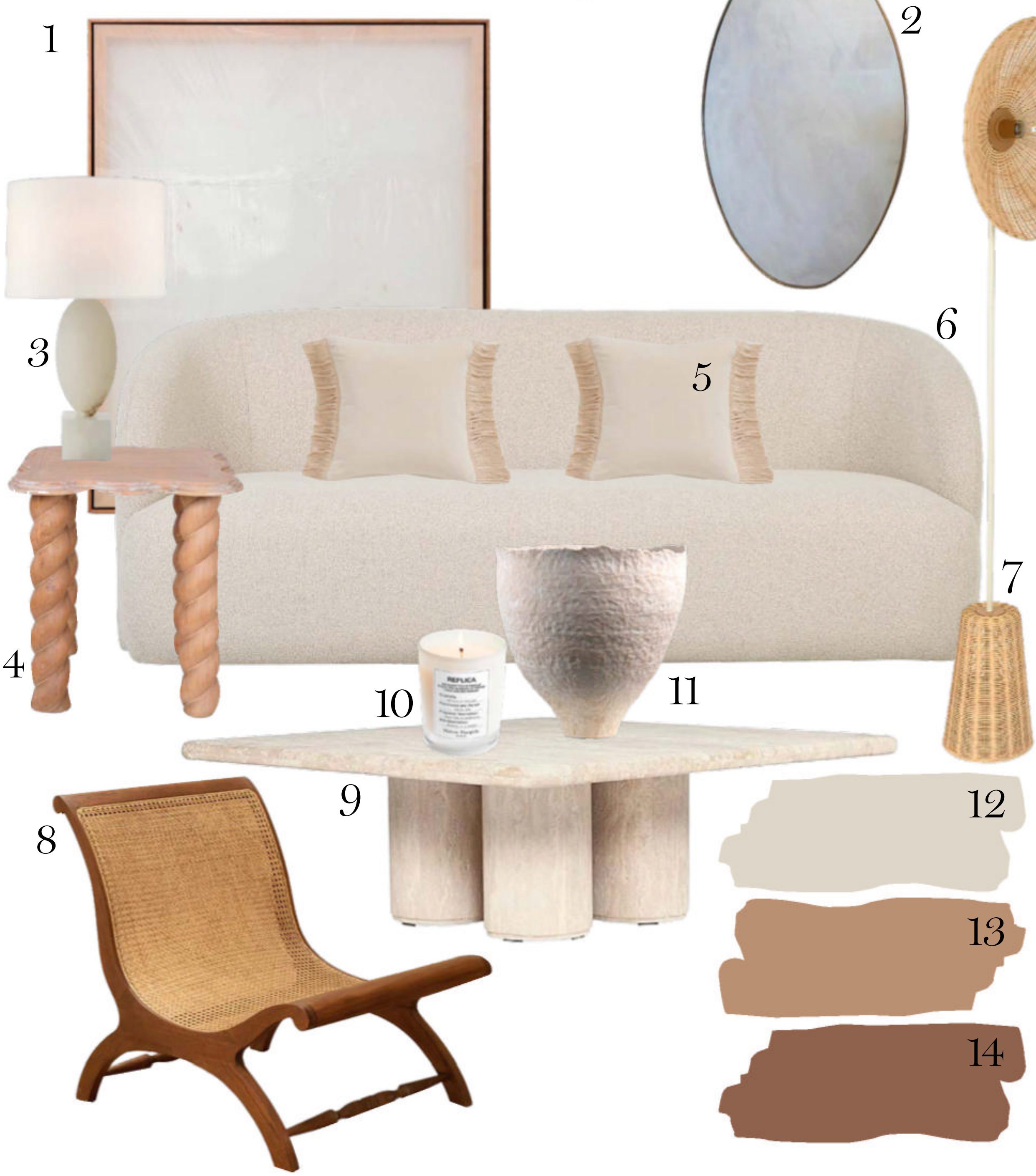
*Natural Living by Design* by
Melissa Penfold,
$69.99, Amazon.



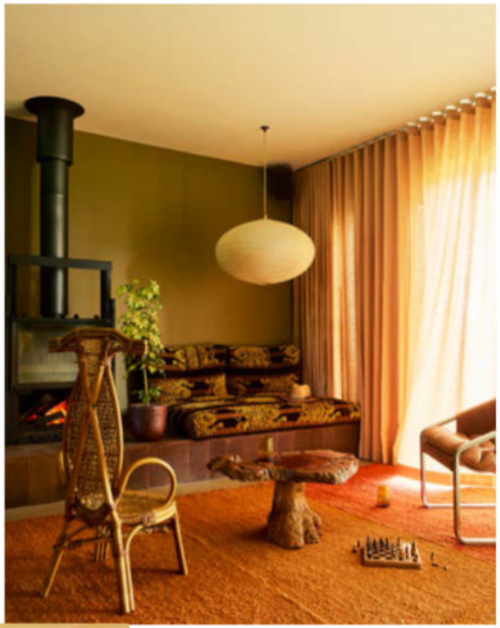
Infused with an elevated *European sensibility* the latest Hali x Smac Studio collaboration has produced some BEAUTIFUL RUGS. *Scalloped edges*, RICH colourways and *playful details* combine in four new designs.

Main image styled by Bea Lambos.

# *The Room*



**1** *Painting Concerning The Past and The Future* **artwork** by Morgan Stokes, $6400, Curatorial+Co. **2** Italian **mirror**, $1850, The Vault Sydney. **3** Julie Neill 'Versa' **table lamp**, $1940, The Montauk Lighting Co. **4** 'Ruslan' **side table**, $649, Freedom. **5** 'Fred' **cushion**, $300/each, Fred. **6** 'Kennedy Beckett' **sofa** in Bone Weave, $5600, GlobeWest. **7** 'Arbor' **lamp**, $389, Beacon Lighting. **8** 'Bentota' **chair**, $4550, Tigmi. **9** 'Mandra' **coffee table**, $3199, Freedom. **10** Maison Margiela 'Afternoon Delight' **candle**, $112, Mecca. **11** 'Uma' **vessel** by Katarina Wells, $2200, Curatorial+Co. **12** Dulux Beige Royal Half. **13** Dulux Smooth Caramel. **14** Dulux Nomad. ▶



### RANCH DRESSING

*Set on 55 acres of farmland in the Northern Rivers of NSW, Sun Ranch is a luxury accommodation destination with an alluring friendly warmth. Conceived by a group of creatives, it offers multiple spaces to stay, eat, celebrate, meditate and enjoy communal experiences outdoors.*

With a killer design brief (think '*spaghetti western* meets MODERN ROMANCE'), the interiors alone are worth the visit, infused with '70s NOSTALGIA. The *farm-to-table* menu is also a tasty treat. *sunranch.com.au.*

Photography by Anson Smart.

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# Entertaining

FILL YOUR KITCHEN WITH TANTALISING AROMAS

Styling by Steve Cordony and Olga Lewis. Photograph by Alana Landsberry. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

Pyrolux round chef pan in Ocean Blue, Minimax. Plates, and cutlery, stylist's own. Fabric, Elliott Clarke.

Pyrolux oval gratin with maple tray, KitchenWarehouse. White plate by Nobue Ibaraki, The DEA Store. **OPPOSITE** Blue bowls and cutlery, stylist's own. Fabric, Elliott Clarke.

*Chickpea & sweet potato curry pies*

# *Double* DATE

*Pan-fried gnocchi with pumpkin, pine nuts & sage*

The Cordony Kitchen's cosy, one-pot delicious meals made for two.

RECIPES *Amanda Cordony* | STYLING *Steve Cordony & Olga Lewis* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Alana Landsberry*

*Succulent* slow-cooked *lamb* and melt-in-your mouth *flaky filo.*

## CARAMELISED APRICOT CHICKEN WITH THYME

***Prep time:** 15 minutes.*
***Cooking time:** 1 hour.*
***Serves:** 2.*

2 tablespoons cornflour
2 teaspoons salt
½ teaspoon freshly cracked pepper
2 chicken marylands, skin on
3 tablespoons (60ml) extra virgin olive oil
2 French shallots, thinly sliced lengthways
2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
6 Dutch carrots, peeled, trimmed
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
⅓ cup dried apricots
⅓ cup apricot jam
150ml apricot nectar
300ml chicken stock
1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
5g thyme leaves, plus extra sprigs to serve
Cooked basmati rice, to serve

**1** Preheat oven to 200°C fan. Place cornflour, 1 teaspoon of the salt and ¼ teaspoon of the pepper in a bag and shake to mix. Add chicken and shake to coat chicken.
**2** Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil on medium-high in a large deep ovenproof frying pan with lid. Add chicken, skin-side down, and brown for 2 minutes each side. Transfer chicken to a plate and reduce heat to low-medium.
**3** Add remaining oil to pan, then shallots, garlic and carrots. Cook for 2 minutes. Add mustard, apricots, jam, nectar, stock, vinegar and thyme. Bring to a simmer. Add chicken skin-side up.
**4** Place frying pan in oven and bake, covered, for 30 minutes. Remove lid and bake, uncovered, for a further 15–20 minutes.
**5** Remove from oven, scatter over thyme sprigs. Serve with rice.

## CHICKPEA & SWEET POTATO CURRY PIES

***Prep time:** 20 minutes.*
***Cooking time:** 35 minutes.*
***Serves:** 2.*

3 tablespoons vegetable ghee or olive oil
1 small brown onion, diced
1 small (300g) sweet potato, peeled, 2cm cubes
1 tablespoon grated ginger
1 teaspoon curry powder
1 teaspoon turmeric
1 can (400g) chickpeas, drained, rinsed
½ cup red lentils
1 cup (250ml) coconut cream
⅓ cup vegetable stock
4 sheets filo pastry, thawed
3 tablespoons melted vegetable ghee

**1** Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan). Grease two 20x15cm pie dishes.
**2** Heat 2 tablespoons of the ghee or oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add onion and sweet potato and season. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring, until softened.
**3** Add remaining ghee, ginger, curry, turmeric, chickpeas and lentils, and stir to combine. Add coconut cream and stock, and season to taste.
**4** Cook for 5 minutes, stirring, until sweet potato is tender and sauce has slightly thickened. Remove from heat.
**5** Evenly spoon mixture into pie dishes.
**6** Brush melted butter evenly over filo sheets. Place 2 scrunched filo sheets over each pie and brush with melted ghee.
**7** Place pie dishes on top shelf in oven and bake for 25 minutes, until pastry is golden and crispy. Remove from oven.
**8** Cool slightly and serve.

## PAN-FRIED GNOCCHI WITH PUMPKIN, PINE NUTS & SAGE

***Prep time:** 20 minutes.*
***Cooking time:** 30 minutes.*
***Serves:** 2.*

¼ (700g) butternut pumpkin, 2cm cubes
250g fresh gnocchi
100g unsalted butter
⅓ cup raw pine nuts
3 tablespoons (60ml) extra virgin olive oil
10 sage leaves
80g shaved pecorino

**1** Fill two-thirds of a large deep casserole with salted water and bring to a boil. Add pumpkin and cook for 10 minutes. Add gnocchi and cook until it floats, about 4 minutes.
**2** Drain pumpkin and gnocchi, then return to pan. Create a space in the centre of pumpkin and gnocchi mixture, then add 80g of the butter and the pine nuts. Toast pine nuts for 1 minute then, using a spatula, gently combine with pumpkin and gnocchi.
**3** Add two tablespoons (40ml) of the oil to casserole and season. Cook for 8–10 minutes, using a spatula to lift ingredients occasionally and allowing a brown crust to form on pumpkin and gnocchi.
**4** In a small saucepan, melt remaining butter with remaining oil over medium heat. Add sage and cook for 1–2 minutes until crisp. Remove sage and set aside, reserving infused melted butter.
**5** Place pumpkin and gnocchi on a serving platter and scatter over sage. Drizzle with reserved butter, scatter over pecorino, season and serve. ▶

*Caramelised apricot chicken with thyme*

Pyrolux round chef pan in Ocean Blue, KitchenWarehouse. Plates and cutlery, stylist's own. Fabric, Elliott Clarke.

## MOROCCAN LAMB SHANKS WITH CORIANDER & DATES

***Prep time:** 20 minutes.*
***Cooking time:** 1 hour and 10 minutes.*
***Serves:** 2.*

2 (650g) lamb shanks
2 teaspoons cumin
2 teaspoons mixed spice
1 ½ tablespoons salt
1 teaspoon freshly cracked pepper
50g unsalted butter
4 tablespoons (80ml) extra virgin olive oil
1 brown onion, diced
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 medium (4 cups chopped) eggplant, 5cm pieces
6 medjool dates, pitted, roughly chopped
300ml tomato passata
½ cup plain yoghurt and 5g coriander leaves, to serve

**1** Place lamb, cumin, mixed spice, 1 tablespoon of the salt and the pepper in a bag and shake to coat.
**2** Place a large (27cm) casserole with lid over medium heat. Heat butter and 2 tablespoons (40ml) of the oil then add shanks. Cook for 3 minutes each side to brown evenly. Transfer lamb to a plate. Wipe casserole clean.
**3** Heat same casserole on medium-high heat and add remaining oil (40ml), onion, remaining salt, garlic and eggplant, and cook for 5 minutes. Add dates, passata and 1 litre of water.
**4** Return shanks to casserole, ensuring they're covered in sauce. Bring to a simmer and simmer gently, covered, on medium heat for 50–55 minutes, turning shanks halfway through cooking time.
**5** Season. Scatter over coriander leaves and serve with yoghurt. **H&G**

SKILLOGALEE
CABERNET SAUVIGNON
CLARE VALLEY

Skillogalee Cabernet Sauvignon. Wine glasses, Dusty Luxe. Platter and cutlery, stylist's own. Herb cutter, 1803. Fabric, Elliott Clarke.

*Moroccan lamb shanks with coriander & dates*

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MELISSA PENFOLD & ISABELLA WALKER-SMITH

# AUCTION HOUSES

THE RISE OF CURATED AUCTION SALES HAS MADE ANTIQUE ONLINE SHOPPING MORE APPEALING. HERE ARE OUR FAVOURITE HAUNTS.

PHOTOGRAPHY *Alana Landsberry*

Melissa and Isabella at the Leonard Joel auction house in Woollahra, Sydney.

Hair and make-up by Michelle Cox using Caudalie, YSL Beauty and Sachajuan.

Auctions are often a middle ground between high-end antique retailers and more mass-market stores. Thanks to sites such as LiveAuctioneers and Invaluable, which partner with auction houses around the world, you can access hundreds of sales any hour of the day. Such sales can be rich hunting grounds for vintage and antique furnishings, from majolica plates to well-made 19th-century French farmhouse tables and Mid-century pieces that sell for three times the price on designer retail sites like Chairish.

Online auctions, such as Lawsons, are one of the most cost-effective and easy ways to buy antiques, with pictures and descriptions of the items posted before each timed sale.

Auction houses provide catalogues online with photographs, brief descriptions and an estimated market value of each item. Browsing them can be entertaining and educational – watch for patterns emerging. Whether you're a collector or a new devotee, there's an explosion of interest in online auction shopping as it offers all the convenience of mass-produced decor without the environmental impact.

The benefits of decorating with antiques are endless. There is an incalculable amount of vintage and antique furniture available, as well as art, to scroll through on your screens.

Here are the best online auction sites to browse, and to bid and buy on the secondary market. Find what gets you excited and buy the best quality you can.

## 1STDIBS

1stDibs provides a platform for both auctions and direct sales, allowing buyers to choose their preferred method of acquisition. While it offers an auction platform, the 1stDibs site brings together more than 3300 professional dealers specialising in design, furniture, fine art and other collectables for affluent consumers and interior designers. *1stdibs.com*

Photograph by Abbie Mellé.

## AALDERS

Founded in 2006 by Julian Aalders and Kim Fyfe, Aalders' rooms in Sydney's Stanmore are home to monthly auctions, including private and single-owner collections and estates. Aalders specialises in a broad range of antiques with a focus on Oriental, European and Australian objects including silver, porcelain, art, textiles, jewellery, mirrors, furniture and architectural garden pieces. We have sold items here over the years. It's the dealer's choice. Great Google reviews, too. *aaldersauctions.com*

## BONHAMS

One of the world's oldest and largest auctioneers of fine art and antiques, and the only international auction house holding sales in Australia, Bonhams Australia forms part of the company's international network of salerooms and offices located in more than 25 countries. It offers Australian vendors the opportunity to reach a global art market. Bonhams has developed a highly personalised online sales and bidding platform that connects bidders with the physical saleroom experience. Specialising in furniture, Australian paintings, Asian arts, jewellery and decorative arts. Keen collectors can pick up a beautiful portrait, good porcelain, or a Georgian table or rug for a good price. *bonhams.com*

## CHRISTIE'S

The famous auction house became a private company in 1988, bought by Artemis, billionaire François Pinault's private holding group, and has held collections spanning artwork, antiques and jewellery. It no longer trades in Australia but deserves a place on the list, being synonymous with the world's most famous and expensive paintings, having facilitated sales of Picassos, Pollocks, Monets, Van Goghs and Warhols. It sold *Salvator Mundi*, the painting attributed to Leonardo da Vinci, which became the most expensive piece of art ever sold. It's clear why Christie's is the ultimate art auction house. In 2016, Christie's celebrated its 250th anniversary and has broken countless records over the years. Notably, sales at the Rockefeller collection auction at Christie's became the most significant charity auction ever staged, coming in at $832.6 million. We've bought art, rugs and antique English furniture in Christie's London rooms over the decades, many of which we now have in our own homes. *christies.com*

## GIBSON'S

Very nice rooms in Armadale, Melbourne, which could easily be mistaken for a high-end antiques store. Founded by Jennifer Gibson in 2018, Gibson's has a team of experienced industry professionals with regular curated sales and single-owner private collections. Always a great mix of antiquities, furniture, decorative arts, Asian art, as well as local, Indigenous and international paintings. *gibsonsauctions.com.au*

## HERITAGE AUCTIONS

Based in Dallas in the USA, but with global reach, Heritage Auctions is the largest collectables auctioneer and third largest auction house in the world. It covers a wide range of antique furniture, art and collectables, previously owned by some of America's most prominent families, and is raided regularly by top-tier Australian dealers and collectors. It even auctioned the 'stealth wealth' memorabilia, props and wardrobe from HBO's Emmy-award-winning drama *Succession*. *ha.com*

## INVALUABLE

Invaluable works with more than 5000 auction houses, dealers and galleries across 16 locations. Last year, it expanded its reach with 33 per cent new bidders and an 88 per cent average sell-through ▶

## *Auction checklist*

Antique newcomers should check out in-store auctions to examine items in person and ask questions. Here's our checklist.

**Develop your eye**
Browse auction catalogues to train your eye. Do research to decide which category types you should buy vintage or antique – older pieces are more likely to feature traditional joinery techniques, better-quality woods and less glue. Research auction archives to find out the 'sold' price of similar items.

**Best bargains now**
Right now, dark timber furniture – mahogany and oak – is out of fashion, which is a good thing because it means you can pick up beautiful Georgian and Regency antiques for a bargain. Seek out chests of drawers, dining chairs and side tables.

**Get a condition report**
Good auction houses will be glad to send additional photos and give further details. Video calls have definitely become standard and it's great to be able to ask questions in the moment instead of going back and forth over email.

**Look for added costs**
Most houses tack on a 25 per cent buyer's premium or commission. Large items may need to be shipped. Get free quotes from removalists before committing to shipping. If your beloved object will need reupholstering or rewiring, add in those costs.

> "VINTAGE PAINTINGS CAN BE A BARGAIN WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE COST OF FRAMING."

rate by lot for its landmark auctions and single-owner auctions. The top lot of 2024 – *The Destruction of the Bastille*, a rare ink-wash drawing gifted to President Washington by the Marquis de Lafayette – exceeded all expectations, selling for close to $2 million, almost four times its pre-sale estimate of $500,000. Potential buyers can browse catalogues and bid online. *invaluable.com*

### LAWSONS

One of the country's oldest auctioneers is now a massive online auction marketplace with an incalculable amount of vintage and antique furniture to browse on your screen. It broadcasts feeds of its unpretentious Thursday auctions in real time. Following along will give you a feel for the rhythms and idiosyncrasies before you dive in. Clients who have registered may place bids as if they were in the room. In addition, Lawsons holds regular timed online-only Thursday sales for interior and garden items. Its timed online auctions let bidders place their top bid ahead of time, which keeps you from being caught up in the adrenaline-fuelled drama of live auctions. Identify the items you like, put in your maximum bids and walk away. When the auction closes, you can go back and see what you've won, knowing you haven't been taken for a ride. *lawsons.com.au*

### LEONARD JOEL

Year-round, multi-category auctions backed by sophisticated online interviews and magazine articles. Its popular The Auction Salon presents more than 1000 items every Thursday. These tend to be eclectic collections across four categories: furniture; art; objects and collectables; and jewellery. This auction house is great for items at lower price points, which owner John Albrecht explains is "so first-time bidders can dip their toes in without worrying about making a bad investment". It also offers curated standalone sales with recent auctions including names such as Barry Humphries, which reached four times the estimate at its June sale. Melissa's family recently auctioned a valuable fine art collection of more than 200 lots to great success with a 98 per cent clearance rate, and highly recommends the Leonard Joel vendor experience. Isabella never misses its program of pop-up modern art exhibitions and weekly The Auction Salon sales. *leonardjoel.com.au*

### LESKI AUCTIONS

Established in 1972, the respected auction house based in Armadale, Victoria, is run by long-time proprietor Charles Leski. Leski is a leading authority in the field of collectables in Australia and a government-approved valuer for the cultural gifts program. In collaboration with fine arts specialist Harry Glenn, the boutique house offers live and timed online auctions for beautiful Asian and European decorative arts, paintings, furniture, silver, jewellery, antique clocks, English pottery, porcelain, ceramics, glass, lighting, rugs, textiles, tribal artefacts, artworks and collectables. *leski.com.au*

### PHILIPS AUCTIONS

Philips launched online-only sales in 2018 – live auctions supported by an online bidding platform. The Australian auction house, founded by the late Arnold Philips more than 50 years ago, is now housed in purpose-built premises in Malvern, Melbourne. Its first sale from this location was the dispersal of the original Georges on Collins – the famous department store's fittings, fixtures and selected furniture. It holds eight special decorative arts sales and jewellery auctions once a year. *philipsauctions.com.au*

## POTTLE AUCTIONS

Specialists in onsite house contents, deceased estates and single-owner sales. Leading Sydney real estate agencies, including Ray White Double Bay, recommend Pottle to clients who are selling their homes and want to offload the contents fast. The team has over 20 years' experience in antiques and auctions and has partnered with Invaluable for 18 years. Pottle's has great Google reviews, too. *pottleauctions.com.au*

## RAFFAN KELAHER & THOMAS

Owner Phillip Thomas, an old-school gentleman and hugely respected in the industry, and his renowned team curate selling exhibitions, both online and through a program of live auctions. Every Friday, catalogues are available for the upcoming week and auctions are held every Monday and Tuesday in Sydney's Leichhardt, with hundreds of people (including dealers) picking over the furniture, estate and outdoor lots. Friendly and unpretentious. A good spot to look for Victorian and Edwardian furniture: '20s, '50s and '60s pieces; and outdoor furniture (wicker and marble, in particular). Plenty of Mid-century pieces from well-known manufacturers that reliably sell for three times the price on designer retail sites such as 1stDibs and Chairish. *rkta.com.au*

## SHAPIRO AUCTIONEERS

One of the best. Melissa's family used Shapiro when they moved houses to offload excess items. Shapiro has several world-class sales every year, focusing on 20th-century art and design, including Aboriginal art, as well as estate auctions – think lifetime collections of Wedgwood china up for grabs and a gallery selling everything from handmade Indian quilts to tribal African and campaign furniture. *shapiro.com.au*

## THEODORE BRUCE AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

The 150-year-old auction house is a good place to snag bargain mid-20th-century furniture and collectables. Watch out for special sales of 20th-century designer furniture – you'll find decent design names. Almost every day there is a timed general sale of furniture, decorative arts or bric-a-brac collectables (good for 1950s glass, great wicker and faux bamboo, or books and more. *theodorebruceauctions.com.au*

## VICKERS & HOAD

This auction house pioneered the container model of bringing shipments from France to Australia and selling antiques, vintage objects and garden items at affordable prices. Genuinely like a flea market experience. Located in the Southern Highlands of NSW, it now holds regular online-only auctions, with most sales comprising French pieces and the contents of moving or downsizing households. Prime hunting grounds for gently used, vintage and antique furnishings, from Grandmillennial hits such as majolica plates to vintage champagne buckets. The dealer's choice. *vickhoad.com* **H&G**

*Next month*
**FLORISTS**

1

2

3

4

5

**1** Floral still-life **artwork** by B. Darkin (60x50cm), Lawsons. **2** French modernist wood-turned **table lamp**, 1stDibs. **3** French Louis XV-style **two-seater sofa**, Aalders. **4** George V sterling **silver tray** with feet (34.5x4cm), Leonard Joel. **5** French silver-plated **champagne bucket** and stand (71cm), Vickers & Hoad.

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# Houses

A LITTLE COUNTRY SENSIBILITY FOR EVERY HOME

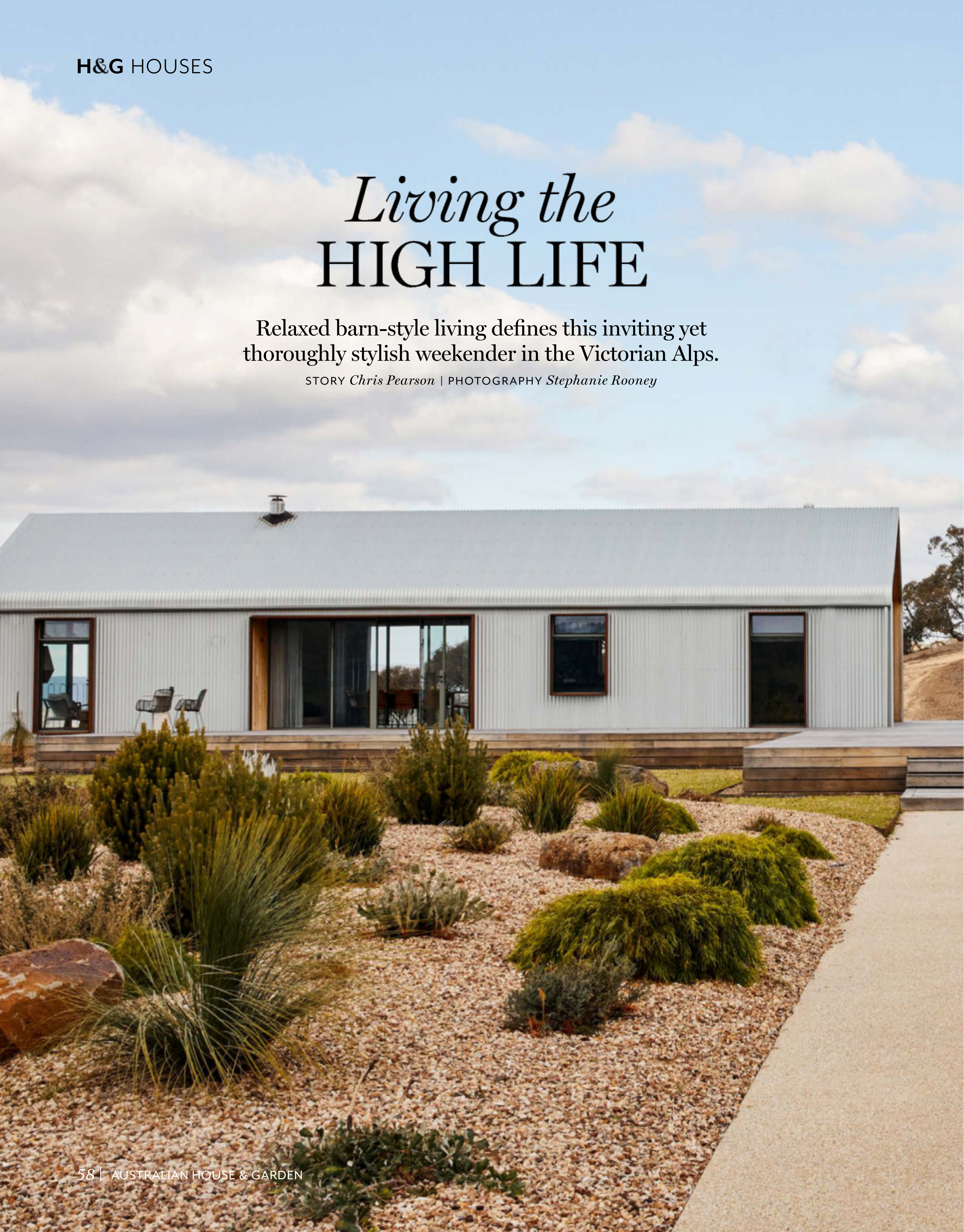
The owner of this stylish weekender in the Victorian Alps wanted it to feel 'like a big hug', while ensuring it sits gently on the landscape. Turn the page to see the stunning result.

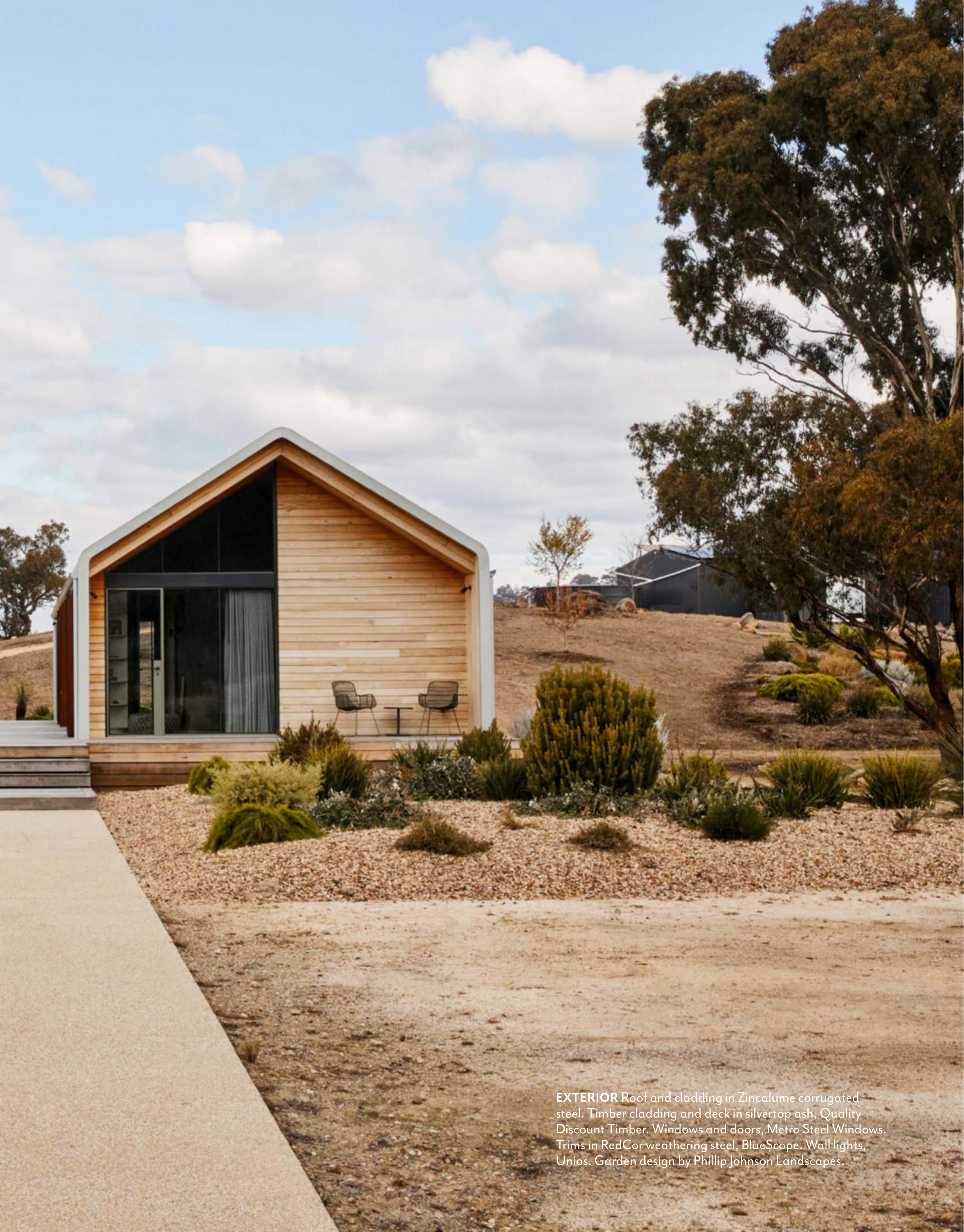
Photograph by Stephanie Rooney. Calligraphy by Lesley Workman.

# *Living the* HIGH LIFE

Relaxed barn-style living defines this inviting yet thoroughly stylish weekender in the Victorian Alps.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Stephanie Rooney*

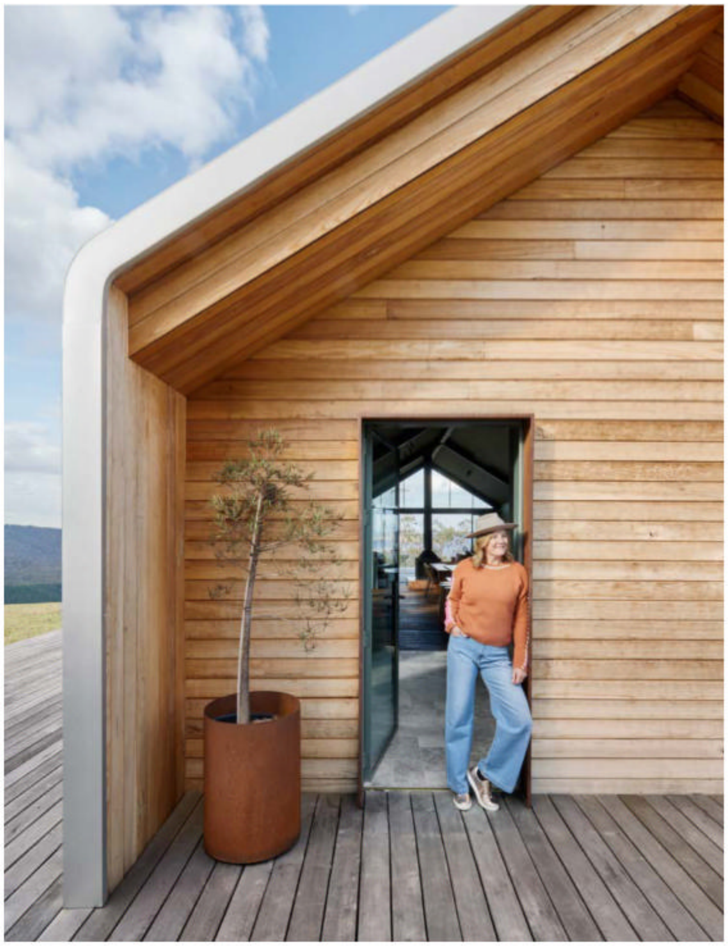




**EXTERIOR** Roof and cladding in Zincalume corrugated steel. Timber cladding and deck in silvertop ash, Quality Discount Timber. Windows and doors, Metro Steel Windows. Trims in RedCor weathering steel, BlueScope. Wall lights, Unios. Garden design by Phillip Johnson Landscapes.

GREAT AUSTRALIAN HOMES

> “I chose green to bring the outside in.”
>
> JOH LYLE, DESIGNER & OWNER



Former Olympian snowboarder Joh Lyle is not afraid of the cold. Wearing her new (non-woolly) hat as designer at her studio, Siesta Home, she created her weekender in the Victorian Alps as two pavilions, without even a covered way between them. "It's exciting and a talking point," she says. "Running back and forth makes us feel connected to the landscape." In the cooler months – and it gets glacial here – it's a bracing morning wake-up call. But both wings are always warm and inviting destinations.

She and her husband, Josh, bought the green fields site back in 2015 as a getaway for them and their two children, son Nixon, 14, and daughter Maelle, 12.

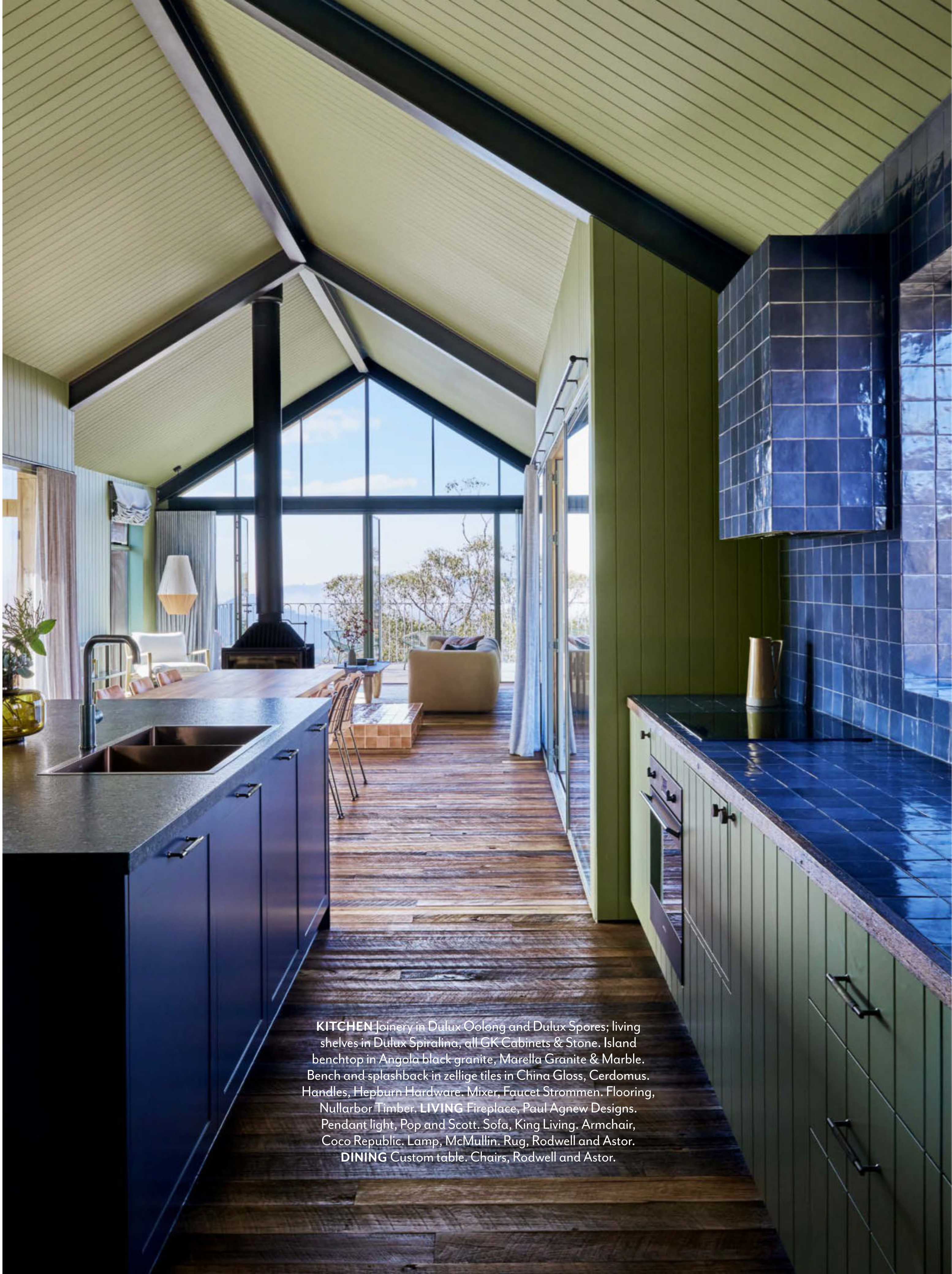
On regular pilgrimages to the winter wonderland of Mount Buller, they had often passed this lot, in rugged bushland and with sweeping vistas. "We mulled over properties down on the flat, but kept on returning to this on the steep," she says. "It offered spectacular views." In 2022, Josh put in the first steel framework, completing the project 18 months later.

"I wanted something hard-wearing and robust," says Joh. But above all it had to be simple and unpretentious, and offer a warm and relaxed welcome to a steady stream of visitors. "I wanted it to feel like a big hug," she says.

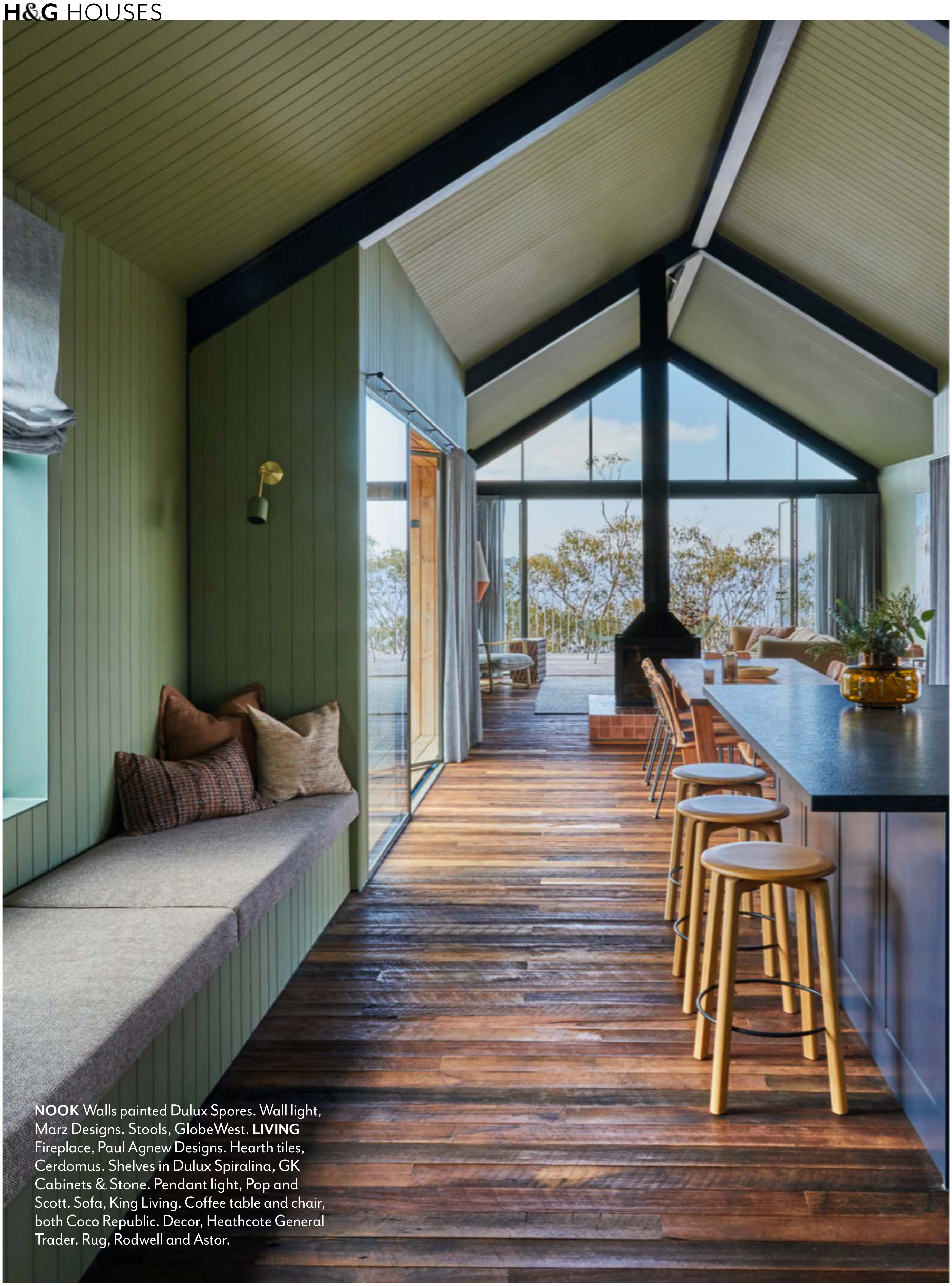
To ensure the home sat gently within the landscape – this was once a sheep farm – and as a homage, Joh adopted the local vernacular, creating two barn-like structures, clad in corrugated iron, roof and external walls, with pitched roofs and cathedral ceilings inside.

"We used minimal materials, chosen for their durability, beauty and sustainability. With corrugated iron, steel-framed windows and recycled timbers, every detail complements the landscape while reducing environmental impact," she says. Raw and earthy, yet also streamlined and stylish, the getaway straddles two worlds. ▶

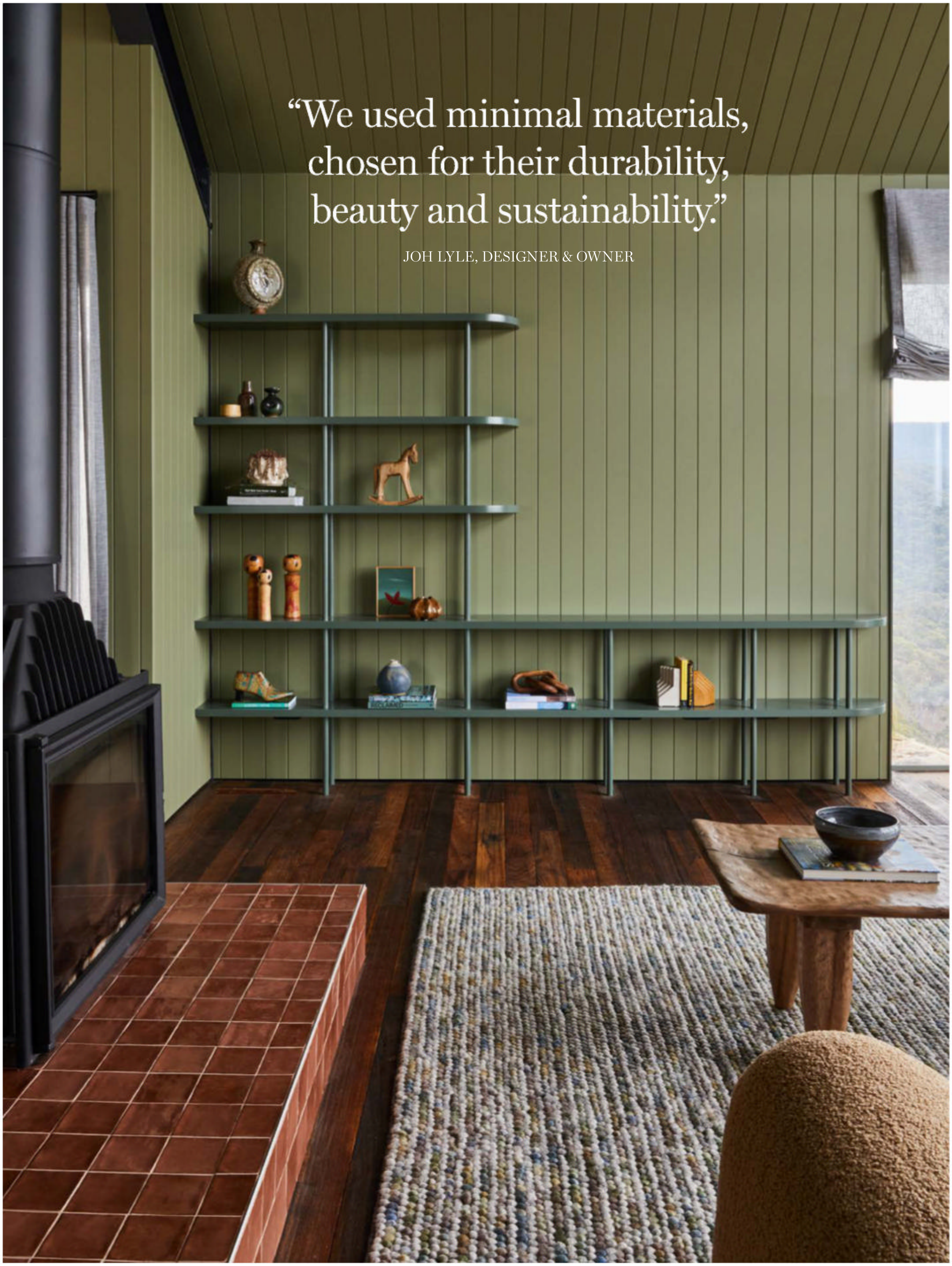
**DECK** *Left* Joh by the entry to the living room pavilion. Cladding and decking in silvertop ash, Quality Discount Timber. Corten steel pot, Echuca Moama Plant Farm. *Right* Syd the kelpie overlooking the garden by Phillip Johnson Landscapes. **ENTRY** Walls in Surround by Laminex 'Classic VJ 100' painted Dulux Spores. Artwork by Chanel Sohier, Greenhouse Interiors. 'Amelie Halo' console, GlobeWest. Ceramic vessel and other items on console, Heathcote General Trader. French pattern floor tiles in Silver travertine, C&D Tiles.



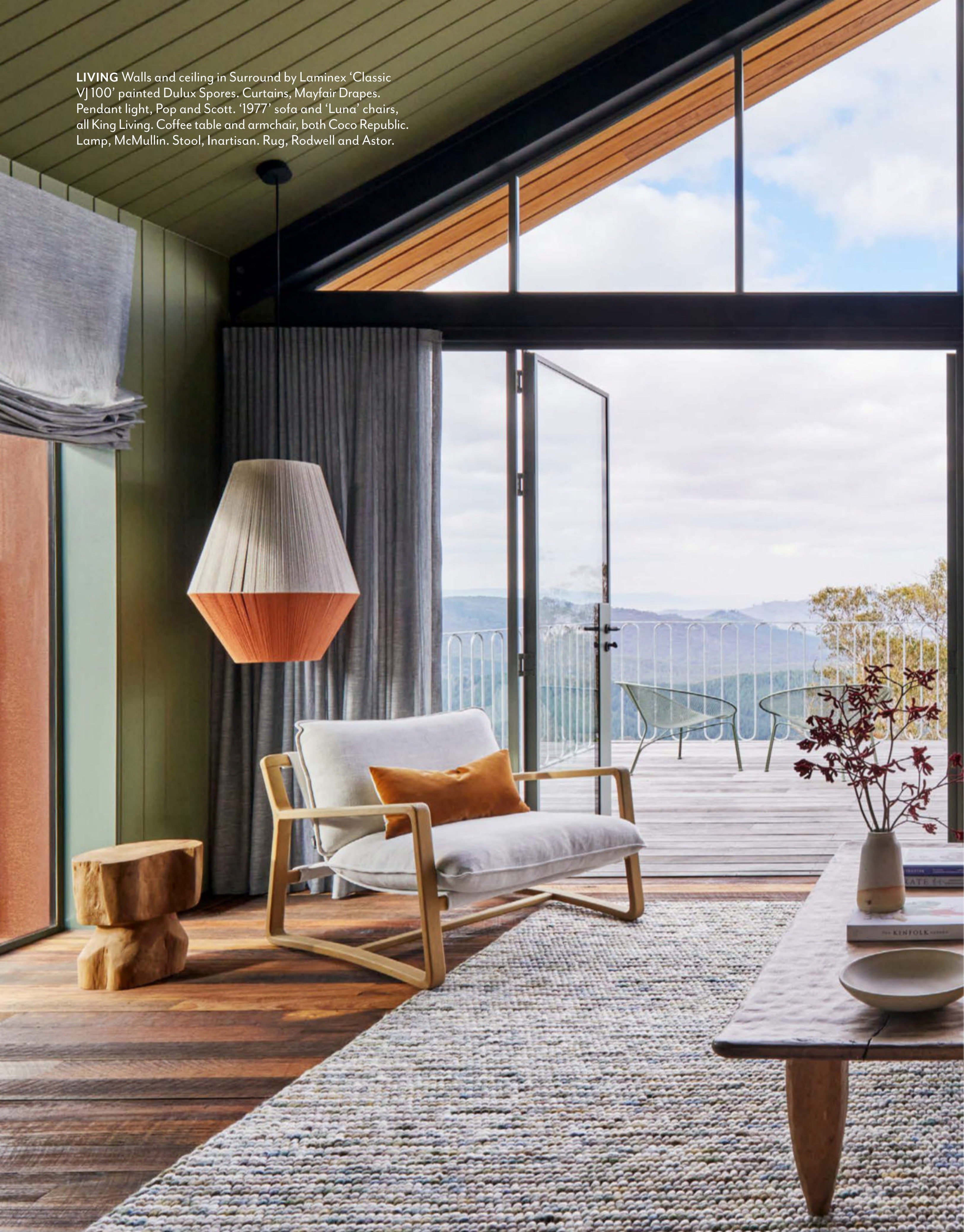
**KITCHEN** Joinery in Dulux Oolong and Dulux Spores; living shelves in Dulux Spiralina, all GK Cabinets & Stone. Island benchtop in Angola black granite, Marella Granite & Marble. Bench and splashback in zellige tiles in China Gloss, Cerdomus. Handles, Hepburn Hardware. Mixer, Faucet Strommen. Flooring, Nullarbor Timber. **LIVING** Fireplace, Paul Agnew Designs. Pendant light, Pop and Scott. Sofa, King Living. Armchair, Coco Republic. Lamp, McMullin. Rug, Rodwell and Astor. **DINING** Custom table. Chairs, Rodwell and Astor.



**NOOK** Walls painted Dulux Spores. Wall light, Marz Designs. Stools, GlobeWest. **LIVING** Fireplace, Paul Agnew Designs. Hearth tiles, Cerdomus. Shelves in Dulux Spiralina, GK Cabinets & Stone. Pendant light, Pop and Scott. Sofa, King Living. Coffee table and chair, both Coco Republic. Decor, Heathcote General Trader. Rug, Rodwell and Astor.



> “We used minimal materials, chosen for their durability, beauty and sustainability.”
>
> JOH LYLE, DESIGNER & OWNER



**LIVING** Walls and ceiling in Surround by Laminex 'Classic VJ 100' painted Dulux Spores. Curtains, Mayfair Drapes. Pendant light, Pop and Scott. '1977' sofa and 'Luna' chairs, all King Living. Coffee table and armchair, both Coco Republic. Lamp, McMullin. Stool, Inartisan. Rug, Rodwell and Astor.

### THIS IS THE LIFE

The family, with kelpie Syd, aims to come here every weekend, says Joh. And the children like to bring their friends along. The broad bench seat opposite the kitchen, is a gathering place, while the bedroom wing offers respite. Or Joh might be sitting in her favourite sling chair reading a book. "Typically, Nixon might be mountain biking, while Maelle and I like to play board games," she says.

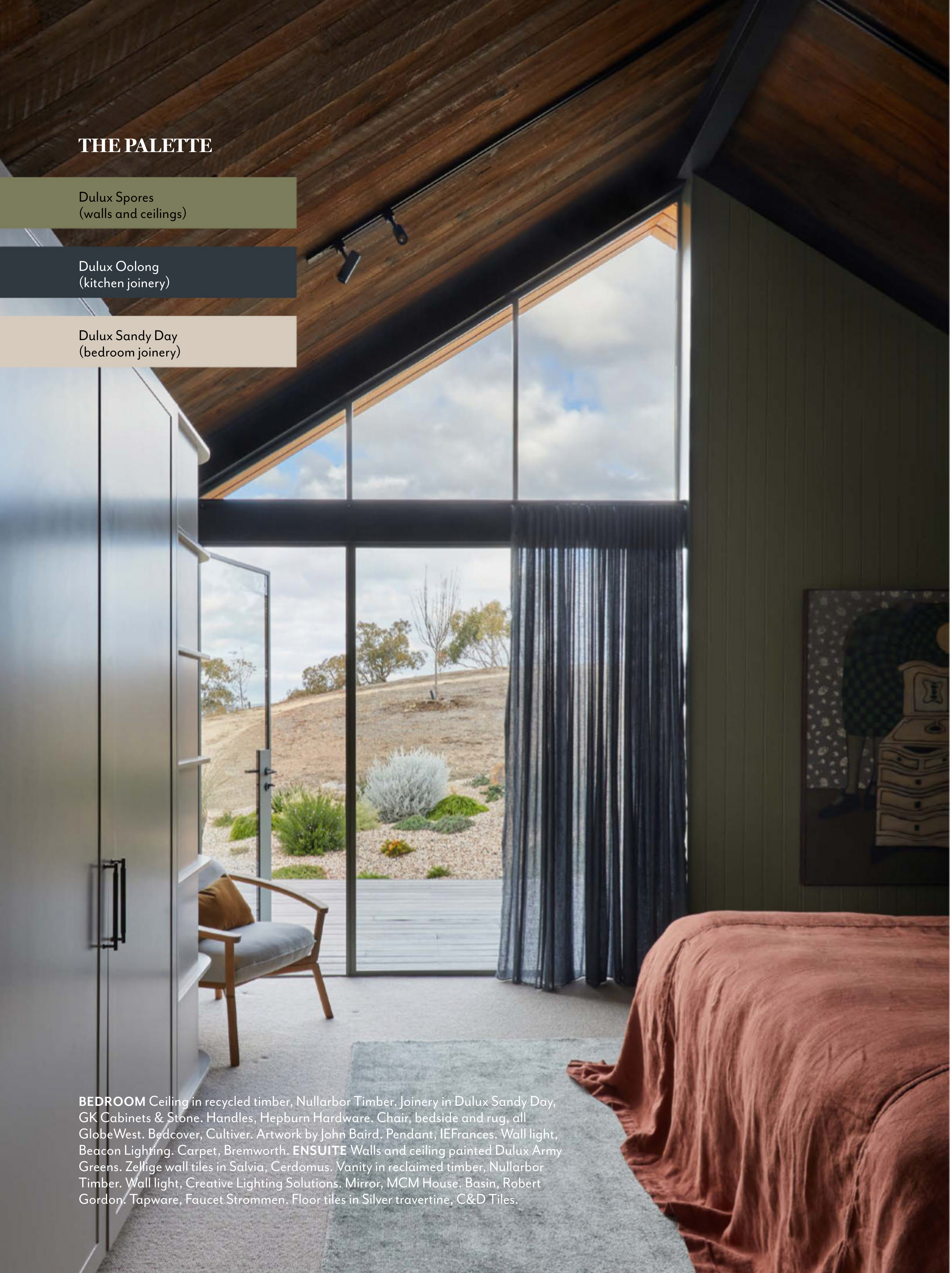
> "We made sure every window has a view."
>
> JOH LYLE, OWNER

## THE PALETTE

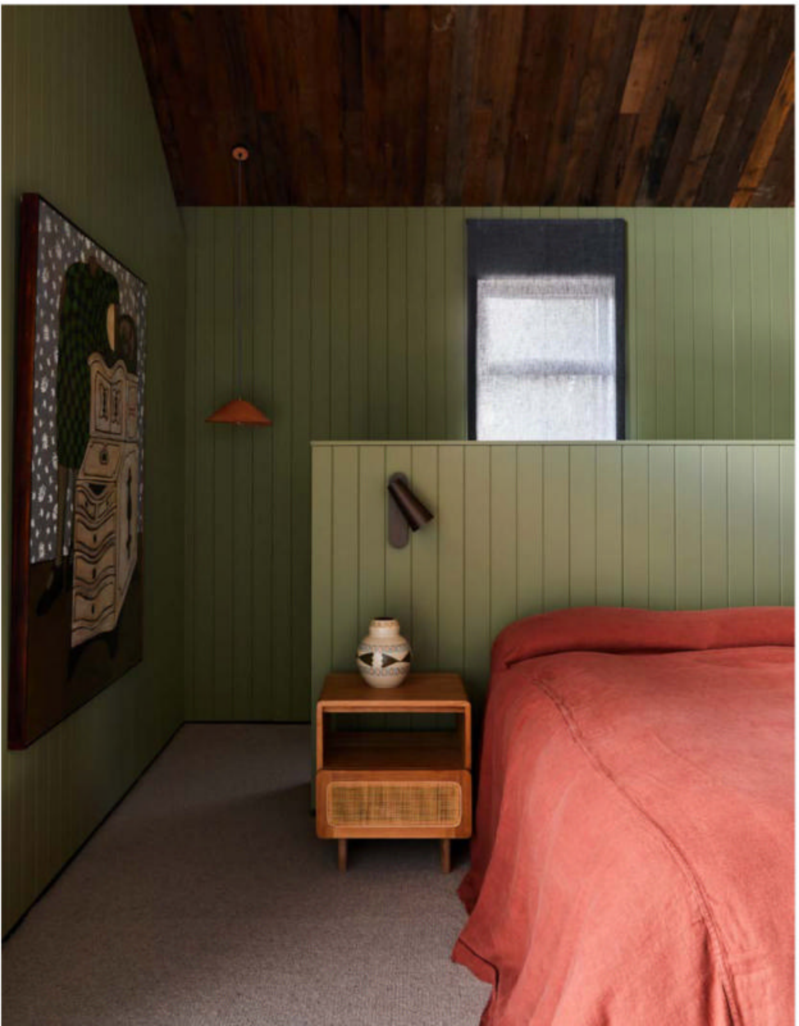
Dulux Spores
(walls and ceilings)

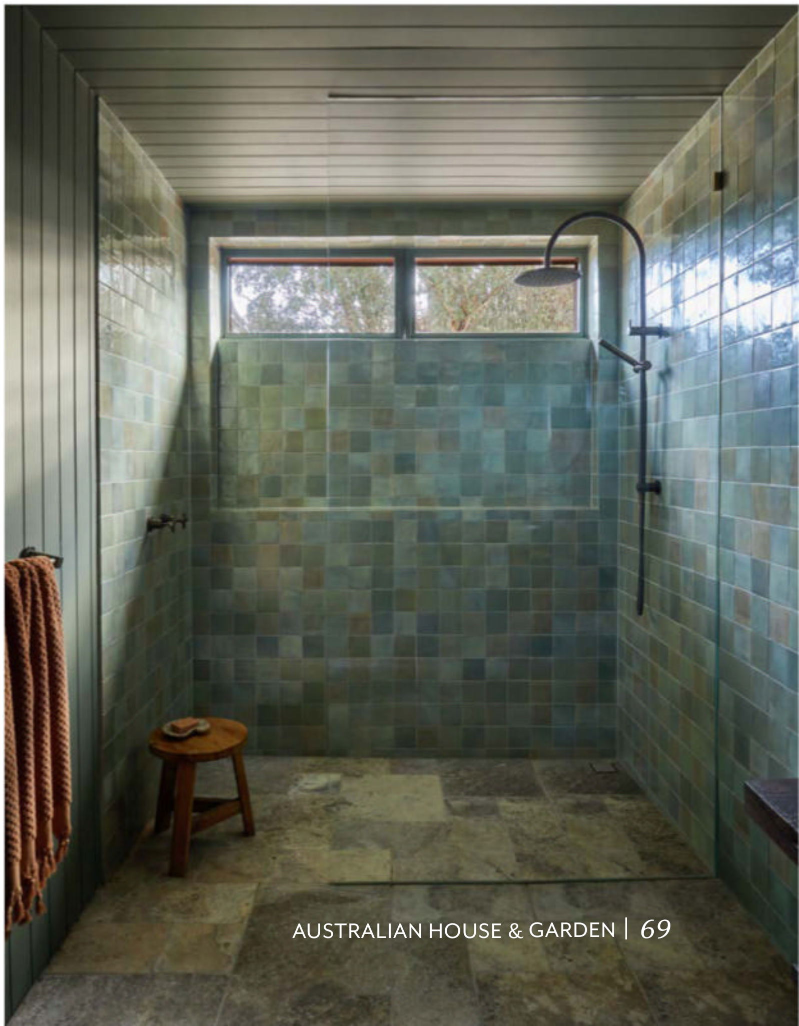
Dulux Oolong
(kitchen joinery)

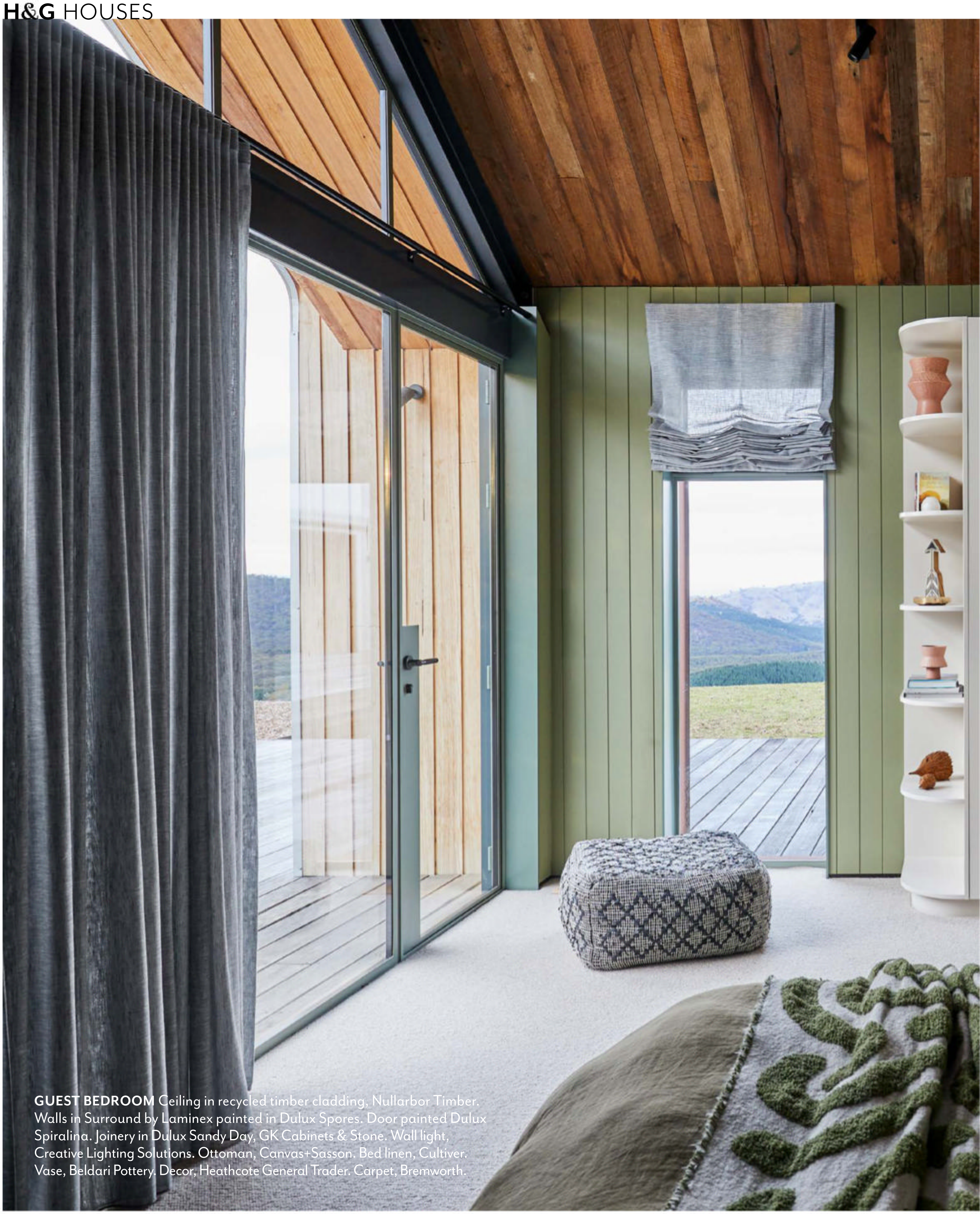
Dulux Sandy Day
(bedroom joinery)



**BEDROOM** Ceiling in recycled timber, Nullarbor Timber. Joinery in Dulux Sandy Day, GK Cabinets & Stone. Handles, Hepburn Hardware. Chair, bedside and rug, all GlobeWest. Bedcover, Cultiver. Artwork by John Baird. Pendant, IEFrances. Wall light, Beacon Lighting. Carpet, Bremworth. **ENSUITE** Walls and ceiling painted Dulux Army Greens. Zellige wall tiles in Salvia, Cerdomus. Vanity in reclaimed timber, Nullarbor Timber. Wall light, Creative Lighting Solutions. Mirror, MCM House. Basin, Robert Gordon. Tapware, Faucet Strommen. Floor tiles in Silver travertine, C&D Tiles.



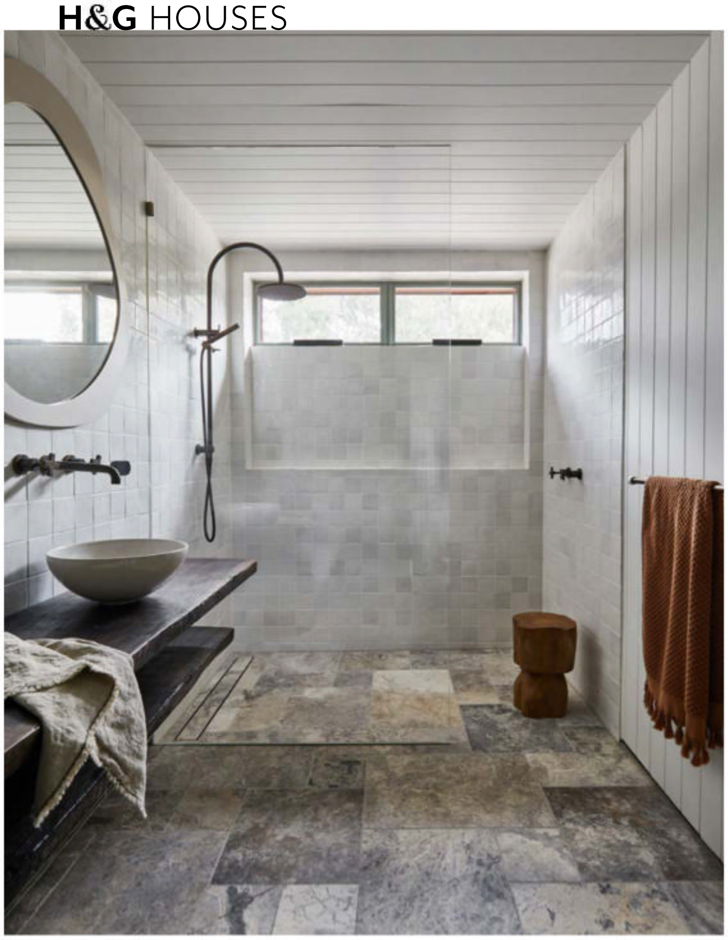


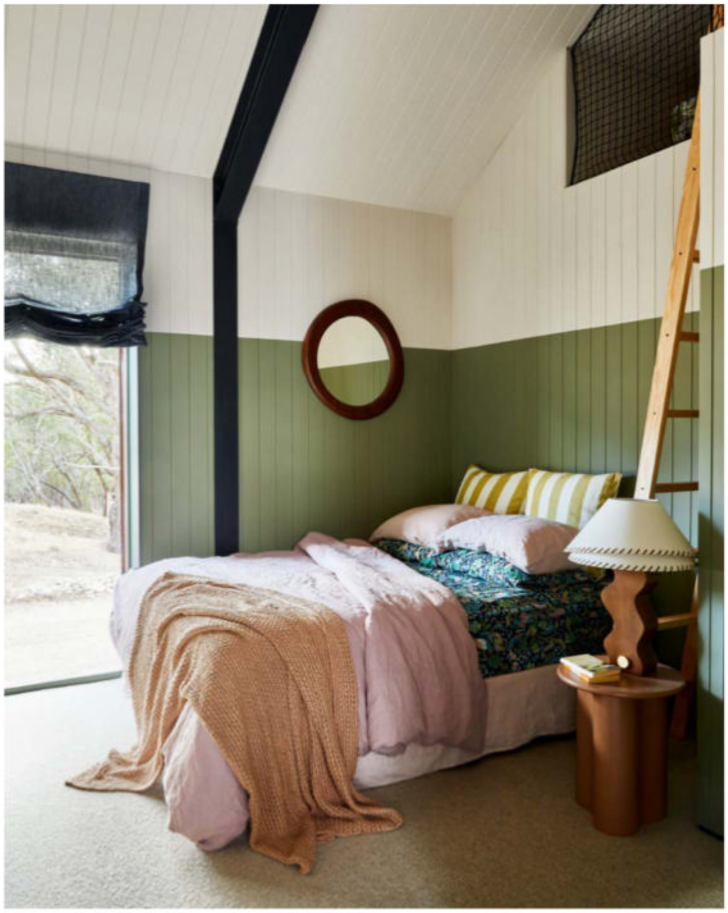


**GUEST BEDROOM** Ceiling in recycled timber cladding, Nullarbor Timber. Walls in Surround by Laminex painted in Dulux Spores. Door painted Dulux Spiralina. Joinery in Dulux Sandy Day, GK Cabinets & Stone. Wall light, Creative Lighting Solutions. Ottoman, Canvas+Sasson. Bed linen, Cultiver. Vase, Beldari Pottery. Decor, Heathcote General Trader. Carpet, Bremworth.

“This house is all about warmth and personality.”

JOH LYLE, OWNER





In one wing is the open plan. The living area is separated from the dining by a firebox, while at the other end is the kitchen – with a bench seat facing the action – and entry. Across an open hardwood deck sits the sleeping wing, with the main bedroom and ensuite at one end, a second bedroom with two ingenious sleeping lofts above, a third bedroom and a family bathroom.

For the interiors, Joh was crystal clear on what she didn't want – white walls and plaster. "I chose green to bring the outside in, including the eucalypts, grass and bark." And no plaster to avoid things being too precious. Echoing the corrugated iron's vertical lines inside, Joh used VJ cladding in olive green and extended it into the cathedral ceiling with its exposed bluegum beams. Floors feature recycled hardwoods and tumbled travertine, while the bathrooms sport zellige Moroccan tiles, again in green. The kitchen, in blue-grey, provides a counterpoint.

And the home is green in other ways. "We wanted it to be self-sustaining," says Joh. "Powered by solar panels and batteries, it's off-grid and rainwater-fed. It also embraces passive design principles, with lots of natural light and ventilation."

Furniture-wise, a sumptuous King Living '1977' modular, laid-back and with removable covers (an added bonus), takes pride of place in front of floor-to-ceiling glazing, with a stunning Pop and Scott 'Bell Weaver' pendant a dramatic counterpoint. But furnishings and accessories are otherwise kept to a minimum. "No excess, no clutter, just a space that feels good to live in," says Joh.

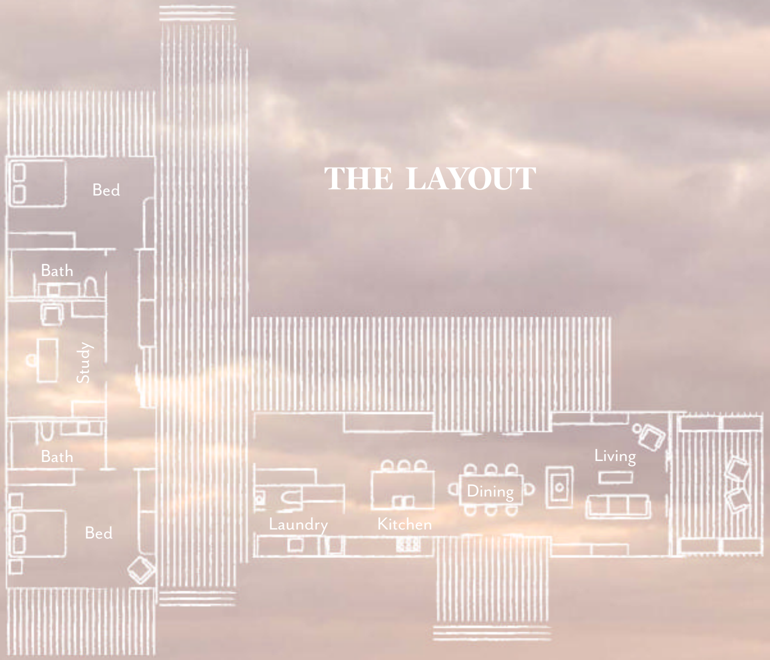
Everyone's favourite spot is the communal bench seat facing the kitchen, its appeal heightened by the pocket window above. "We made sure every window has a view," she says. Not just of the mountains, but also the alpine garden – think scree and grasses – by Phillip Johnson Landscapes. And a faraway fire pit. "We wanted it to be disconnected and far from the house. With the ground steeply falling away beyond, for the full alpine experience."

As well as that bench seat, the kids love the loft bedrooms. "They call it their magical land," she says. "Wrapped head to toe in a gorgeous olive, this house is all about warmth, personality and cosying up by the fire with a cuppa. A home should feel like a hug — and this delivers that in the best way." ▶

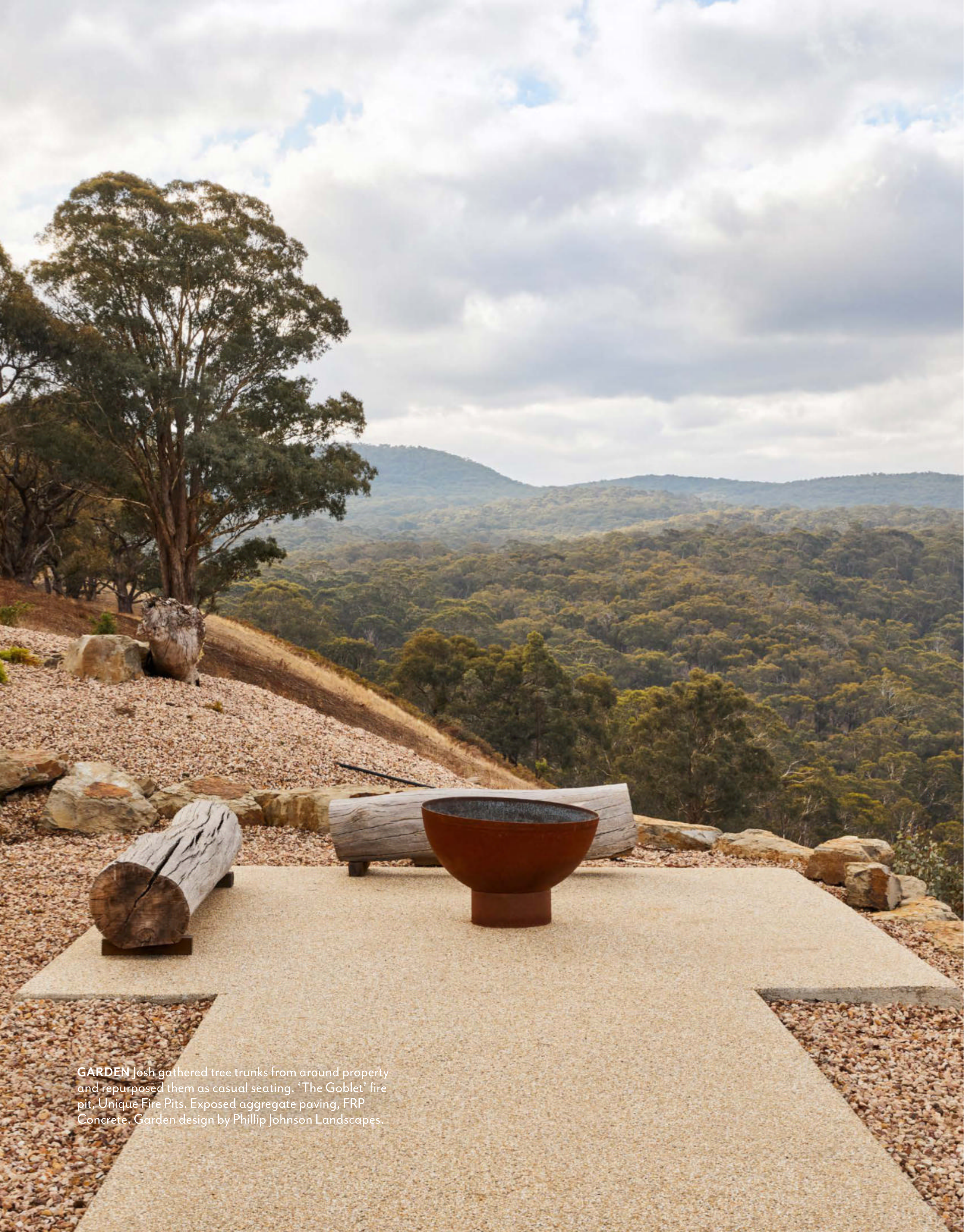
***Siesta Home:** siestahome.com.au.*

**BATHROOM** Walls and ceiling in Surround by Laminex 'Classic VJ 100' painted in Dulux Whisper White. Zellige wall tiles in Gesso Gloss, Cerdomus. Custom vanity. Tapware, Faucet Strommen. Basin, Robert Gordon. Stool, Inartisan. Silver travertine floor tiles, C&D Tiles. **KIDS' BEDROOM** Walls painted Dulux Spores and ceiling Dulux Sandy Day. Side table, GlobeWest. Lamp, Paola & Joy. Mirror, McMullin. 'Levante' carpet in Sunwash, Bremworth. **GARDEN** Garden design by Phillip Johnson Landscapes.

## THE LAYOUT


Bed
Bath
Study
Bath
Bed
Laundry
Kitchen
Dining
Living

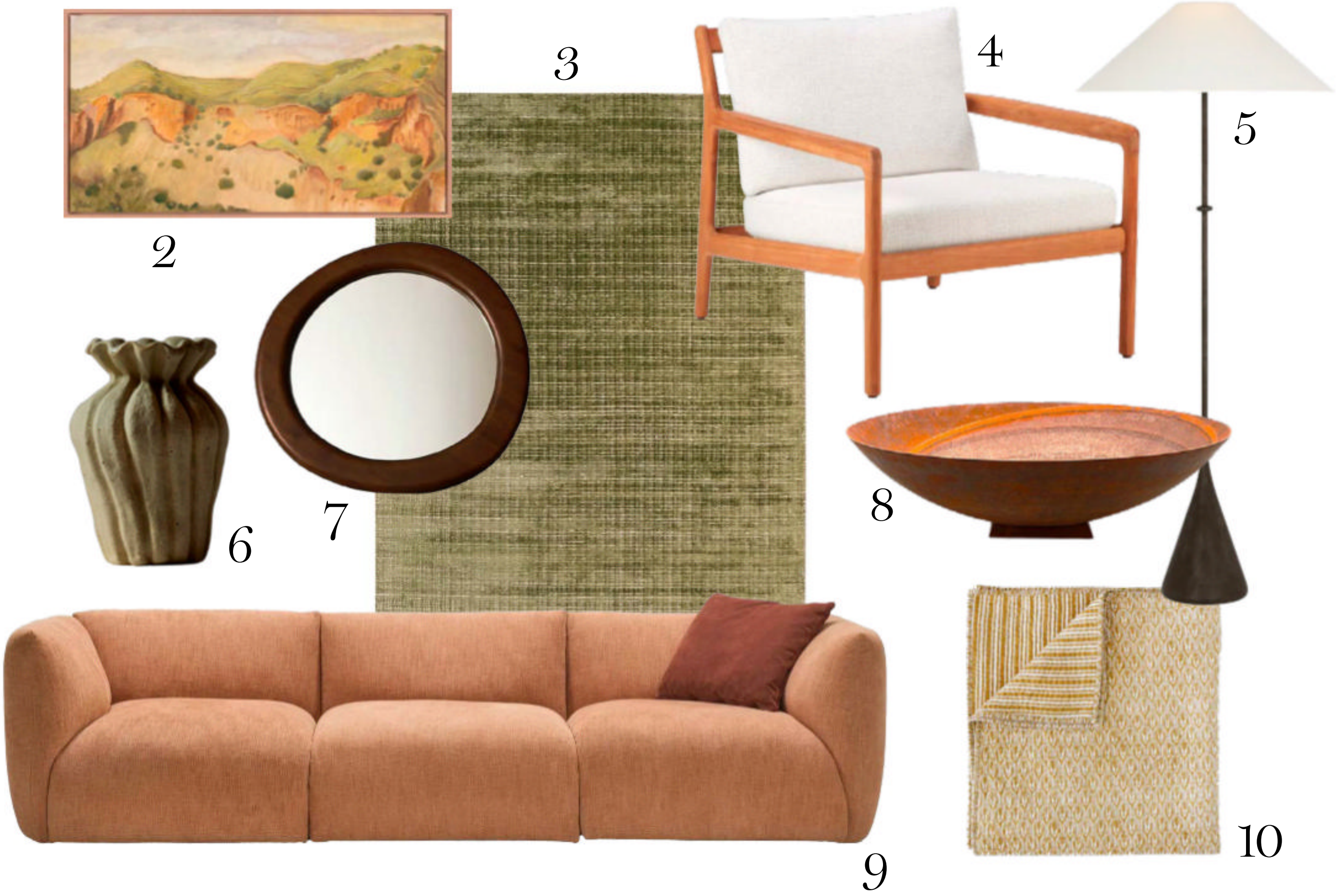
*Ground floor*



**GARDEN** Josh gathered tree trunks from around property and repurposed them as casual seating. 'The Goblet' fire pit, Unique Fire Pits. Exposed aggregate paving, FRP Concrete. Garden design by Phillip Johnson Landscapes.

# THE SOURCE

*Turn up the heat this winter with pieces that add a cosy glow to your interiors.*



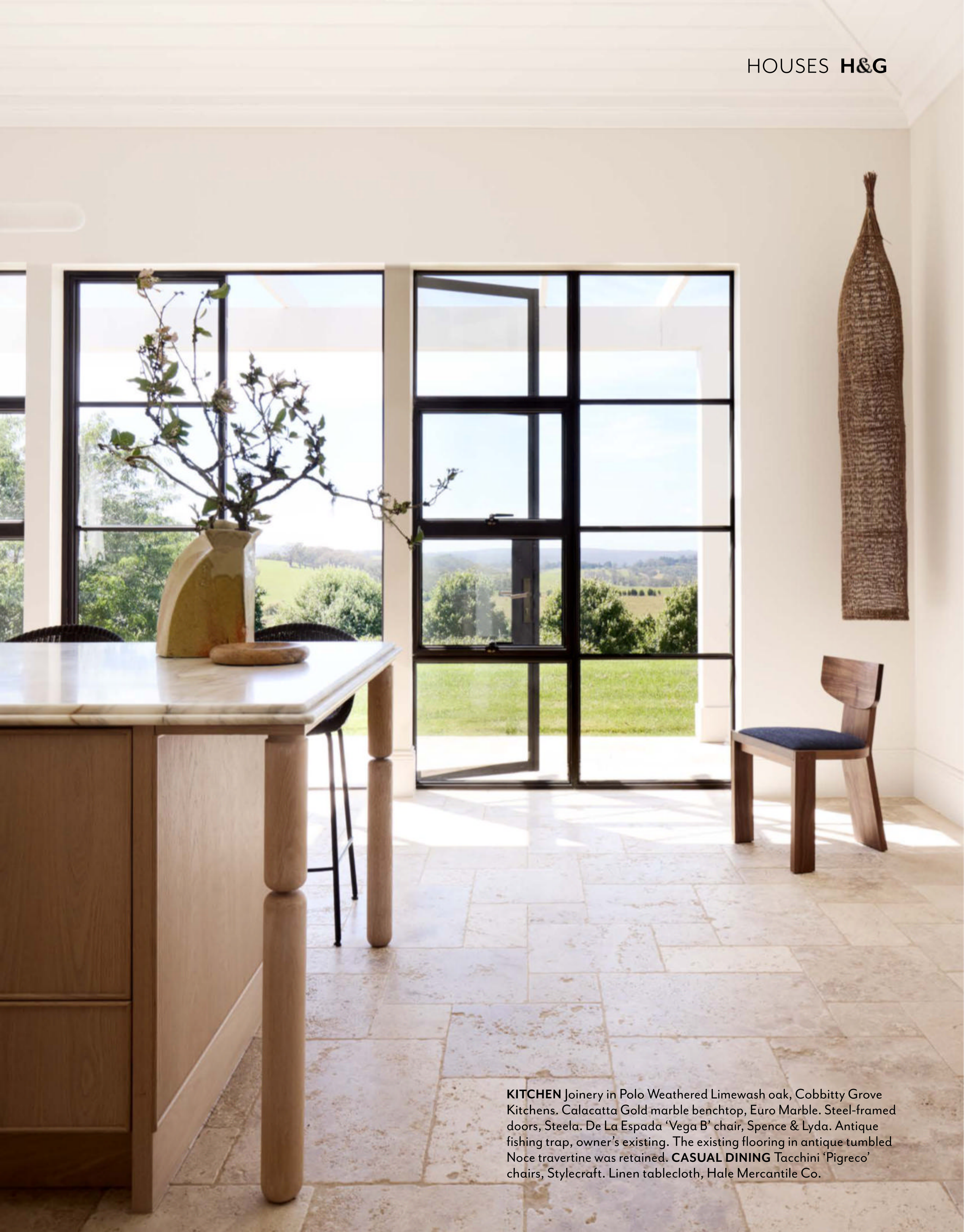
**1** 'Bell Weaver' **pendant light** in Natural and Chartreuse, $1200, Pop and Scott. **2** *Atop the Caldera* **artwork** by Jessie Ford, $1900, Saint Cloche. **3** 'Atticus' **rug** in Avocado (300x200cm), $1799, RJ Living. **4** 'Jack' one-seater **outdoor sofa** in Off-white, $2365, Kira&Kira. **5** Kelly Wearstler 'Zealous' **floor lamp** in Garden Bronze, $1890, The Montauk Lighting Co. **6** 'Lotus' **vase**, $640, Bluethumb. **7** 'Molly' **wall mirror** in Walnut, $599, McMullin. **8** Cast-iron **fire pit**, $1290, Fire Pits Direct. **9** Natadora 'Slipper' **modular sofa** in Yak Sherpa, from $2620, GlobeWest. **10** 'Belize' saffron **quilt**, $440, Walter G. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

# GOOD CONNECTIONS

A sprawling family weekender was turned into an intimate home for two keen entertainers, thanks to some clever design moves.

STORY *Judy Pascoe* | STYLING *Claire Delmar* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Prue Ruscoe*



**KITCHEN** Joinery in Polo Weathered Limewash oak, Cobbitty Grove Kitchens. Calacatta Gold marble benchtop, Euro Marble. Steel-framed doors, Steela. De La Espada 'Vega B' chair, Spence & Lyda. Antique fishing trap, owner's existing. The existing flooring in antique tumbled Noce travertine was retained. **CASUAL DINING** Tacchini 'Pigreco' chairs, Stylecraft. Linen tablecloth, Hale Mercantile Co.

> "The owners wanted to convert it from a kid-friendly family home to a sophisticated residence."

SALLY WILKINS, INTERIOR DESIGNER

**CASUAL DINING** The dining area opens to the terrace and garden. Articolo Studios 'Scandal' Extra Long pendant light, Est Lighting. Tacchini 'Pigreco' dining chairs, Stylecraft. Tablecloth, Hale Mercantile Co. 'Winged' ellipsoid vessel by Suvira McDonald, The DEA Store.

When interior designer Sally Wilkins was engaged to work on this property in the Southern Highlands of NSW, the client's first question surprised her – "Can you make the house feel smaller?"

Not a common request, says Sally, as most clients are looking to expand the feel of their home. However, the 20-year-old house was indeed sizeable with ceiling heights ranging from four to eight metres and a vast array of rooms that no longer had purpose and were disconnected from each other.

Based on an H-shape, the house has three wings with further wings behind for guest accommodation and utility rooms. A combined kitchen and dining area, study and sunroom occupied one wing, with a 'great' room spanning the cross section. Six bedrooms, five bathrooms and a children's playroom were located in the other wing.

Originally built as a weekender, the house worked well when the children were small but it needed a rethink when the adult children moved away and it became a permanent residence.

"The owners wanted to convert it from a kid-friendly family home to a sophisticated residence for the next chapter of their lives," says Sally.

As enthusiastic entertainers the owners had noticed that their guests tended to congregate in the combined kitchen dining area without moving into other areas of the home.

"Having a dining table in the kitchen is great when the kids are growing up, but not so good for entertaining," says Sally. "We needed to spread the flow."

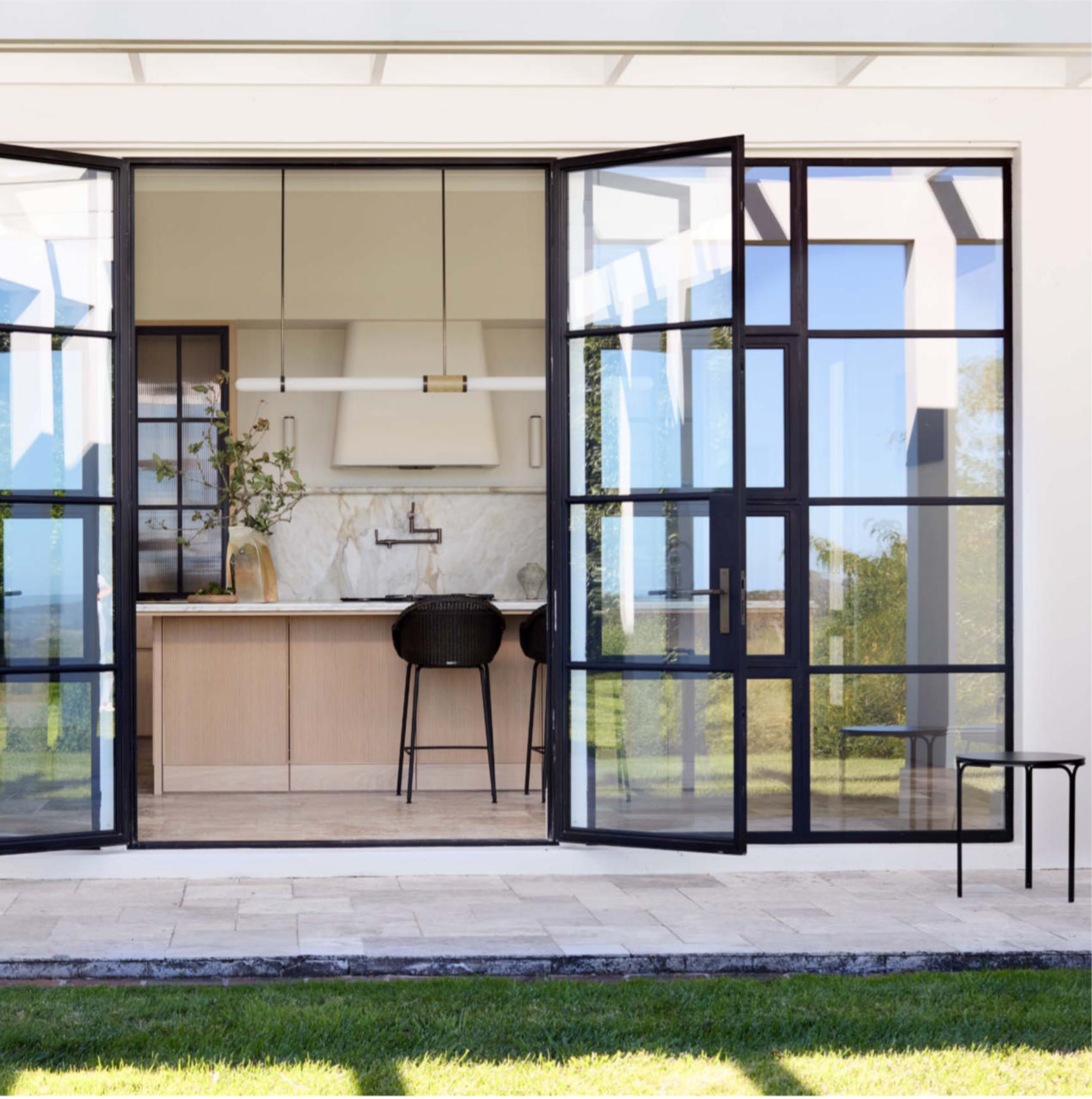
Her plan was to change the functionality of the main rooms and create an enfilade, a suite of rooms with doorways in line with each other, connected via a series of steel-framed doors.

"The large central space, which we coined the 'great' room, was not used all that much, so we turned it into a combined lounge and dining room, with glazed doors leading to the kitchen," says Sally.

With the dining area removed from the kitchen, there was space to include a butler's pantry in the reconfigured floorplan. Adjacent to the kitchen, a small TV room was remade into a casual dining area with a bank of doors leading to the garden providing a conservatory feel. At the other end of the 'great' room, an intimate formal living room was crafted out of the children's former playroom. The new arrangement encourages movement through the spaces and allows a view from one side of the house to the other, making it feel more connected. Sally adds that these doors can be closed to create a more intimate feel when there are fewer people in the home.

Having sorted the floorplan, Sally worked on the decoration. She was inspired by the home's European sensibilities and grand proportions to introduce colour, texture and layers and to showcase the owners' extensive contemporary art collection. ▶

**KITCHEN** Steel-framed doors, Steela. Joinery in Polo Weathered Limewash oak, Cobbitty Grove Kitchens. Calacatta Gold marble benchtop, Euro Marble. Tapware and pot filler, Brodware. Articolo Studios 'Scandal' pendant light, and 'Slim' wall sconces, Est Lighting. Vincent Sheppard 'Avril' counter stools, Cotswold Furniture. *Vessel #03* by Suvira McDonald, The DEA Store. Keith Melbourne 'Avion' outdoor side table, Stylecraft.



Colours were used judiciously. The new formal living room was painted a deep blue, Dulux Monsieur, a foil for the ochre rug from Robyn Cosgrove, and softened with natural linen curtains.

It is a sophisticated retreat and a favourite with friends who say "it's so peaceful in there". Colour drenching with "a calming, creamy white", Porter's Paints Cashmere Half, in the kitchen, living and dining area ties in with the existing antique tumbled stone flooring and the benchtop in Calacatta Gold marble as well as providing an ideal backdrop for art.

The main bedroom's high ceilings and generous size "could take something quite strong without it being overwhelming" so Sally selected a blush-coloured grasscloth wallpaper that "glows and is flattering for skin tones". The soft fabric folds of a pendant light from Pinch London, colour-blocked curtains and upholstery in a pinky apricot intensify the room's glow.

Chevron-patterned oak floorboards replaced the timber plank floors in the 'great' room and wool sisal was laid in the bedrooms. These updates, combined with the steel-framed windows and doors provided a refined modern framework.

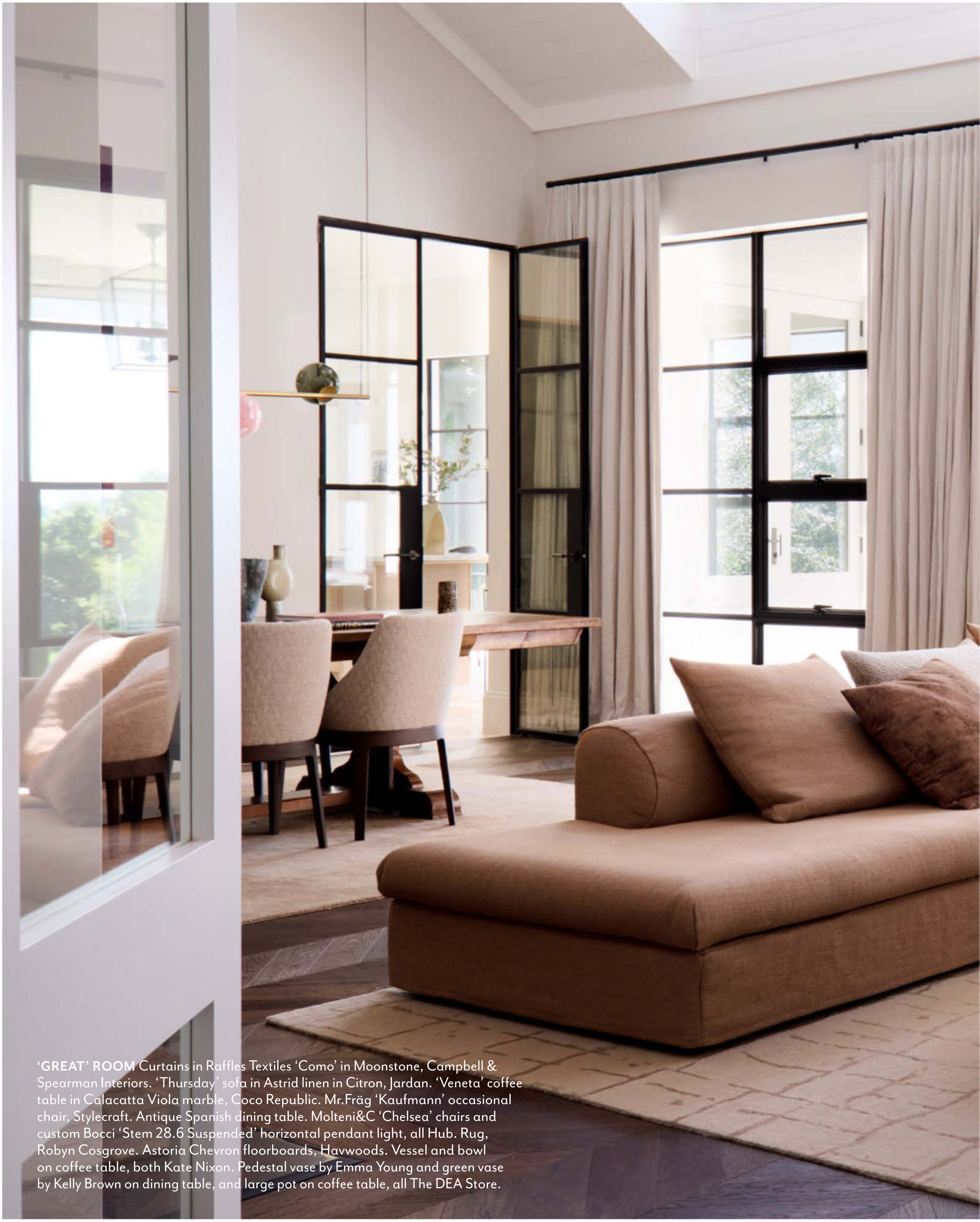
The owners had some beautiful furniture, which Sally repurposed with new upholstery or by positioning in different areas of the home, but she also introduced new and vintage pieces to create a felicitous blend of contemporary, rustic and antique.

With its beautiful gardens, which were designed and planted by the owners more than 20 years ago, and restful views to the expansive countryside surrounding it, the house is a truly relaxed country retreat.

To Sally's delight, the refurbishment has been a huge success. The owner called following her first party after the makeover, excitedly proclaiming, "It worked Sally! Everyone spread out around the house, they didn't just congregate in the kitchen." ▶

***Sally Wilkins Studio:** sallywilkinsstudio.com.au.*

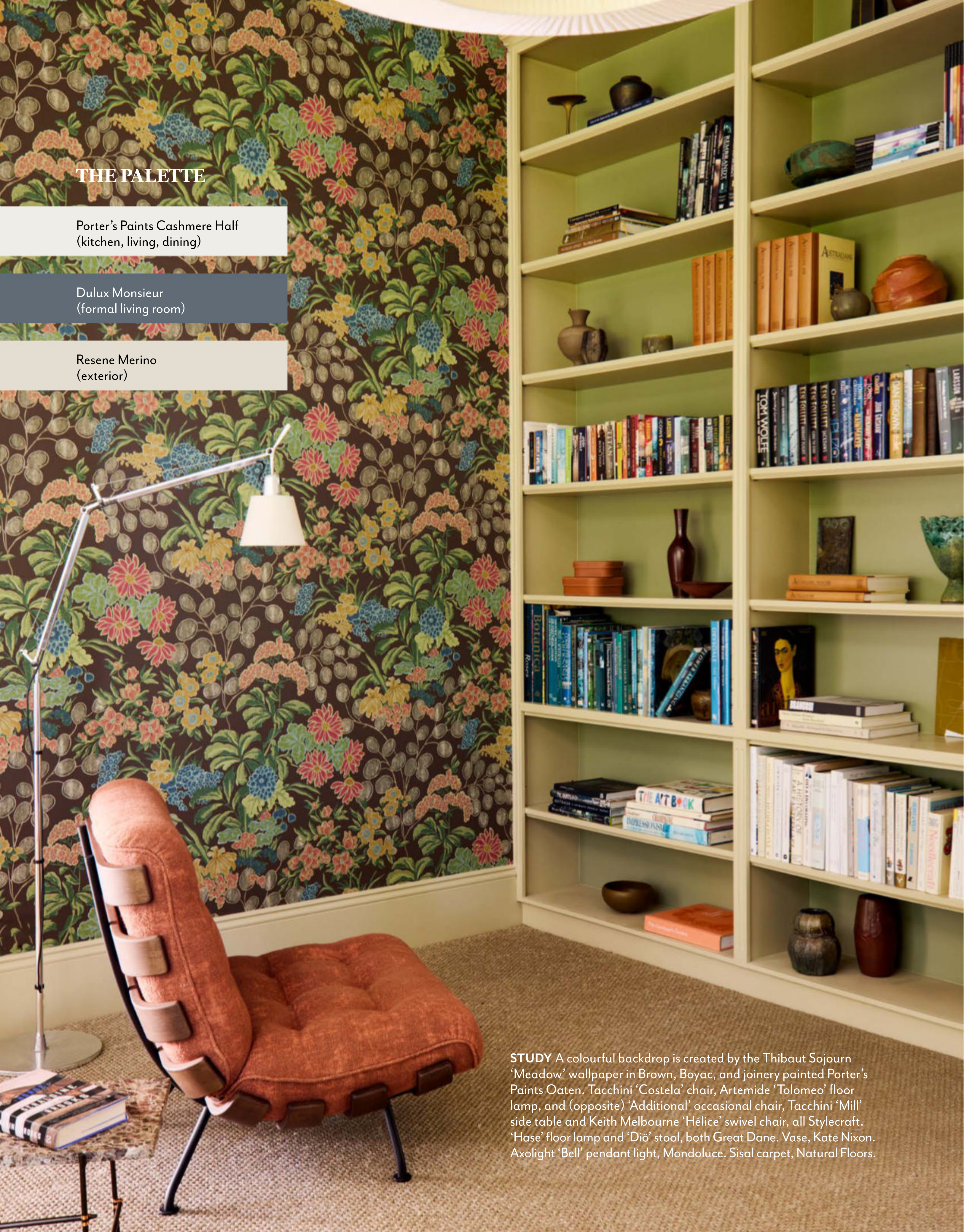
**MAIN BEDROOM** Wall in Arte 'Marqueterie Line' wallpaper, Unique Fabrics. Curtains, Campbell & Spearman Interiors. Tacchini 'Additional' chaise, Stylecraft. 'Austere' floor Lamp, Great Dane. Pinch 'Anders' pendant light, Winnings. **ENTRY** Tacchini 'Altar' side table by EWE Studio, Studiopepe 'Torii Love' console, and De La Espada 'Vega B' chair, all Stylecraft. *In-Land* artwork by Harriet Goodall, Jennings Kerr. Innolux 'Senator' table lamp, Great Dane. Antique hall table, owner's. **DINING** *Opposite* Chairs, Stylecraft. Tablecloth, Hale Mercantile Co. Existing antique tumbled limestone flooring.



**'GREAT' ROOM** Curtains in Raffles Textiles 'Como' in Moonstone, Campbell & Spearman Interiors. 'Thursday' sofa in Astrid linen in Citron, Jardan. 'Veneta' coffee table in Calacatta Viola marble, Coco Republic. Mr.Fräg 'Kaufmann' occasional chair, Stylecraft. Antique Spanish dining table. Molteni&C 'Chelsea' chairs and custom Bocci 'Stem 28.6 Suspended' horizontal pendant light, all Hub. Rug, Robyn Cosgrove. Astoria Chevron floorboards, Havwoods. Vessel and bowl on coffee table, both Kate Nixon. Pedestal vase by Emma Young and green vase by Kelly Brown on dining table, and large pot on coffee table, all The DEA Store.

> “We turned it into a combined lounge and dining room, with glazed doors leading to the kitchen.”

SALLY WILKINS, INTERIOR DESIGNER



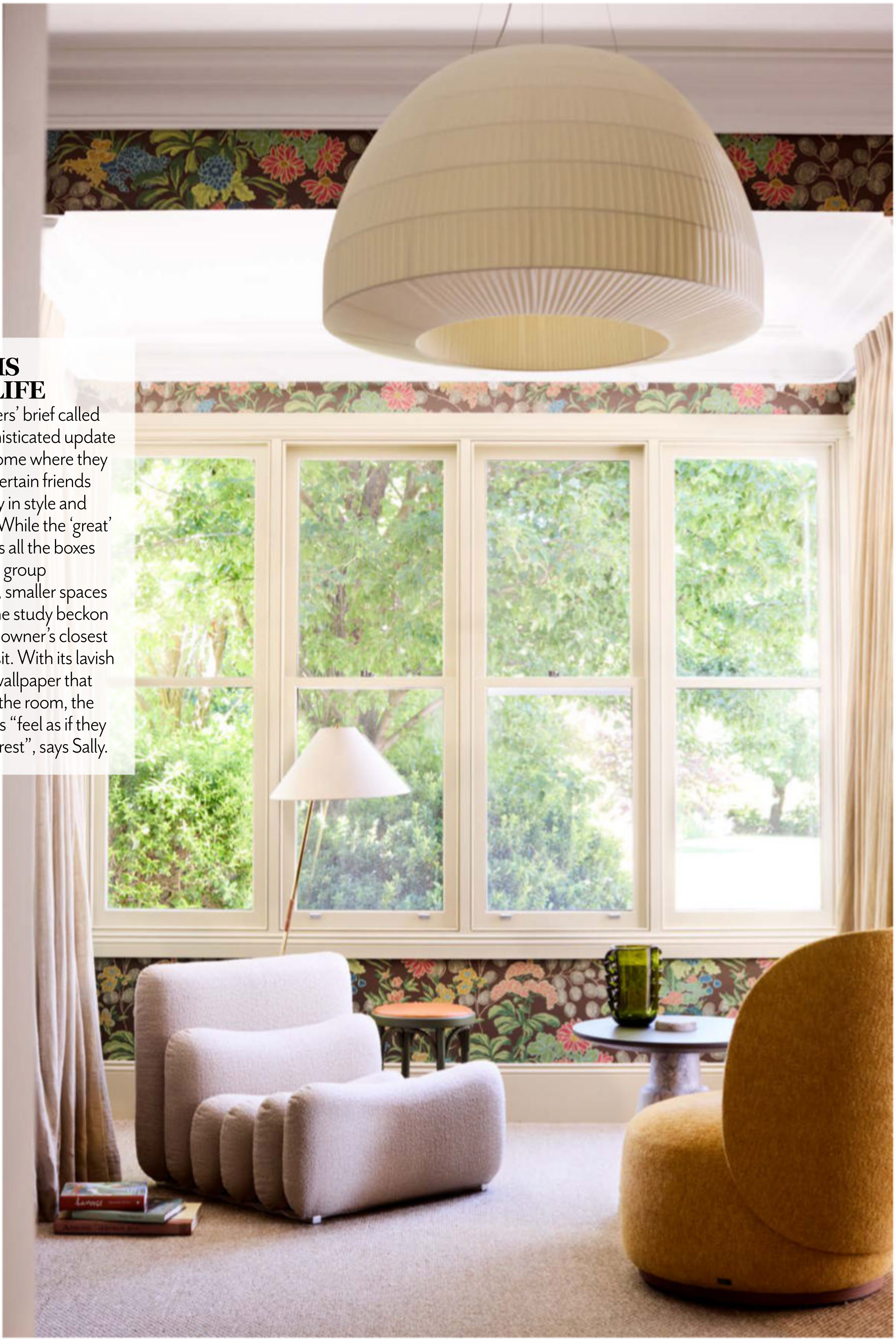
## THE PALETTE

Porter's Paints Cashmere Half (kitchen, living, dining)

Dulux Monsieur (formal living room)

Resene Merino (exterior)

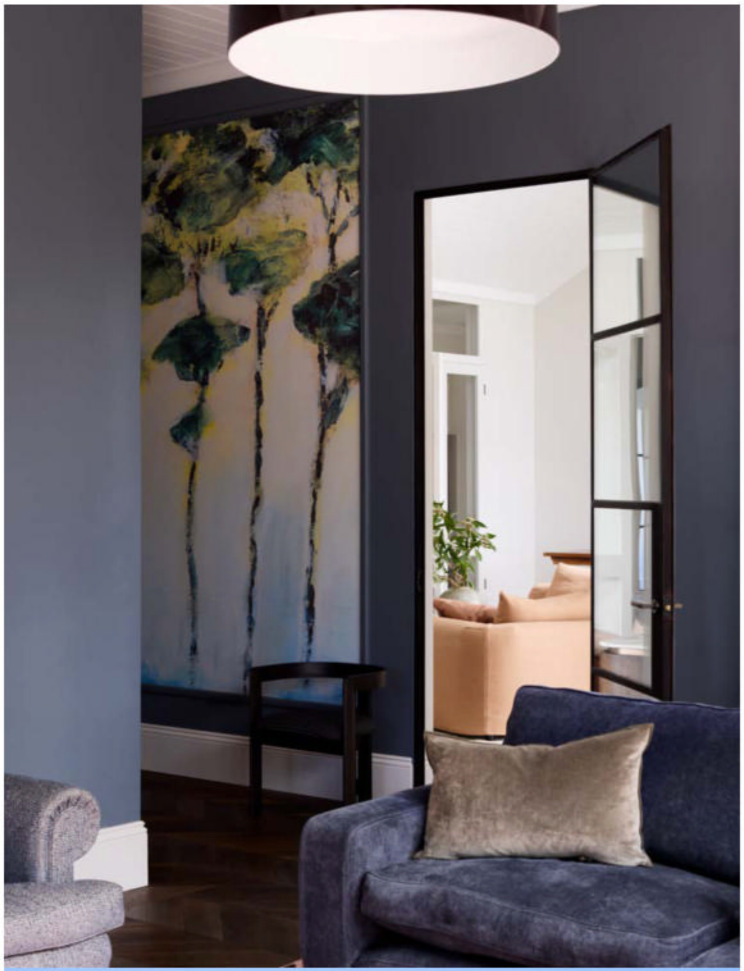
**STUDY** A colourful backdrop is created by the Thibaut Sojourn 'Meadow' wallpaper in Brown, Boyac, and joinery painted Porter's Paints Oaten. Tacchini 'Costela' chair, Artemide 'Tolomeo' floor lamp, and (opposite) 'Additional' occasional chair, Tacchini 'Mill' side table and Keith Melbourne 'Hélice' swivel chair, all Stylecraft. 'Hase' floor lamp and 'Diö' stool, both Great Dane. Vase, Kate Nixon. Axolight 'Bell' pendant light, Mondoluce. Sisal carpet, Natural Floors.



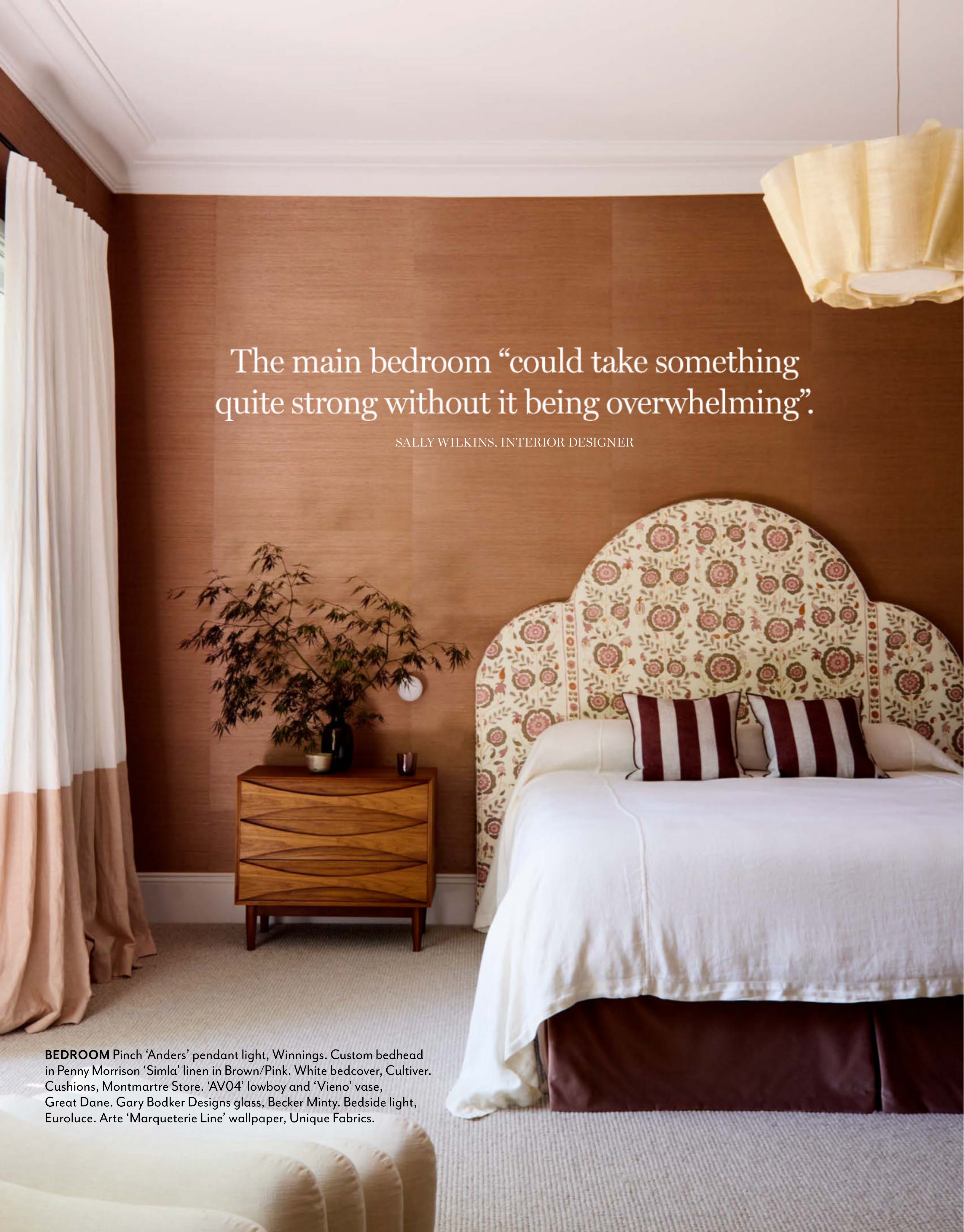
### THIS IS THE LIFE

The owners' brief called for a sophisticated update of their home where they could entertain friends and family in style and comfort. While the 'great' room ticks all the boxes for a large group gathering, smaller spaces such as the study beckon when the owner's closest friends visit. With its lavish Thibaut wallpaper that envelops the room, the occupants "feel as if they are in a forest", says Sally.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



**BATHROOM** Wall and floor tiles, Aeria Country Floors. 'Manhattan' tapware and 'Industrica' shower set, Brodware. 'Remnants' marble table, Spence & Lyda. Bowl, Softedge Studio. **LIVING** Maison Lévy 'Pins Parasols Panoramic' wallpaper, Mossy Store. Marset 'Bohemia' pendant light, Est Lighting. Tacchini 'Pigreco' chair, Stylecraft. Maison de Vacances cushions, Montmartre Store. Sofa, owners' existing reupholstered by Campbell & Spearman Interiors. **OUTDOORS** The owner began establishing the garden more than 20 years ago and it provides a restful outlook.

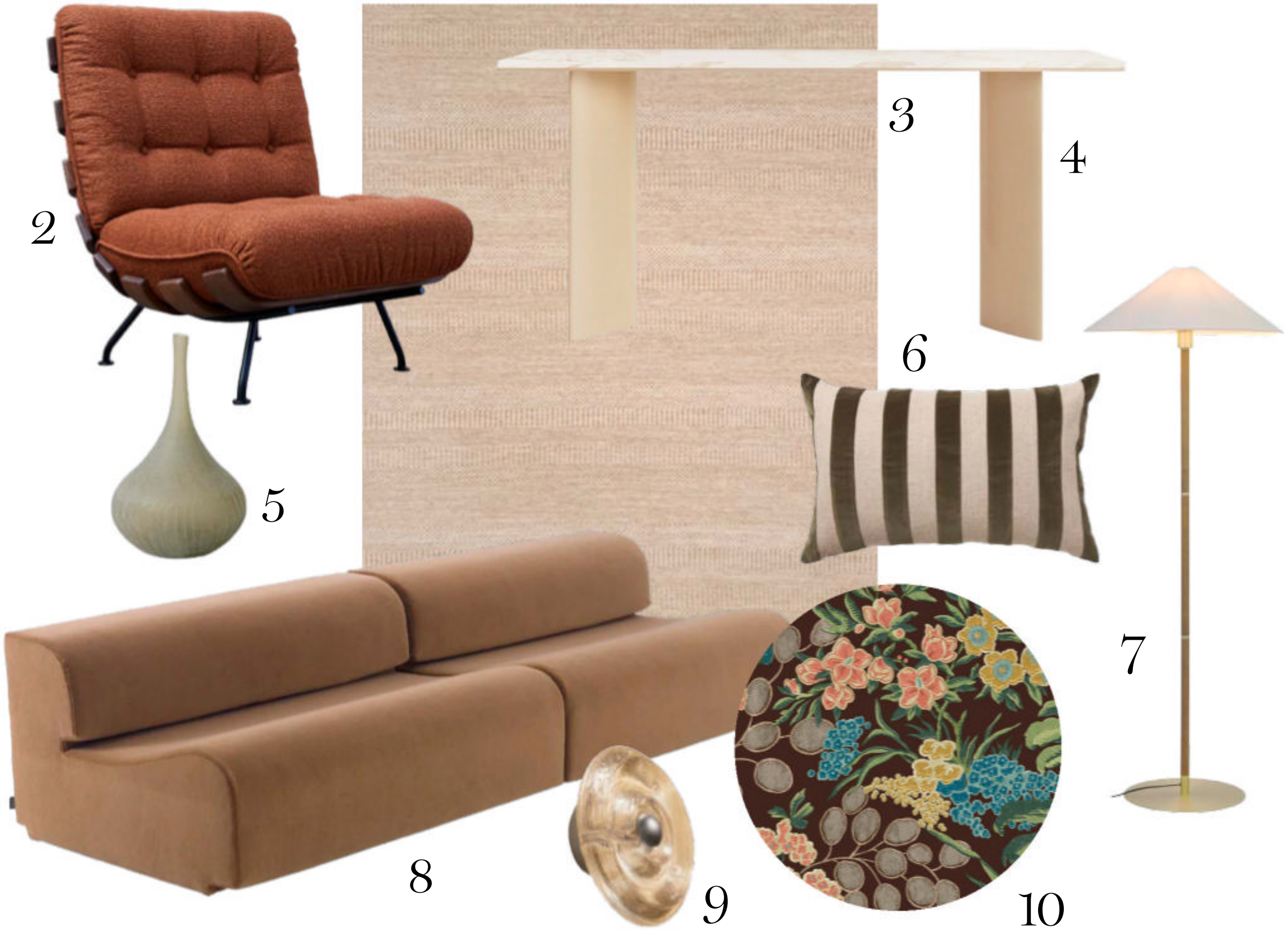


> The main bedroom "could take something quite strong without it being overwhelming".
>
> SALLY WILKINS, INTERIOR DESIGNER

**BEDROOM** Pinch 'Anders' pendant light, Winnings. Custom bedhead in Penny Morrison 'Simla' linen in Brown/Pink. White bedcover, Cultiver. Cushions, Montmartre Store. 'AV04' lowboy and 'Vieno' vase, Great Dane. Gary Bodker Designs glass, Becker Minty. Bedside light, Euroluce. Arte 'Marqueterie Line' wallpaper, Unique Fabrics.

# THE SOURCE

*Combine warm shades, soft textures and uplifting prints for a home that's both sophisticated and intimate.*



Produced by Marissa Foye.

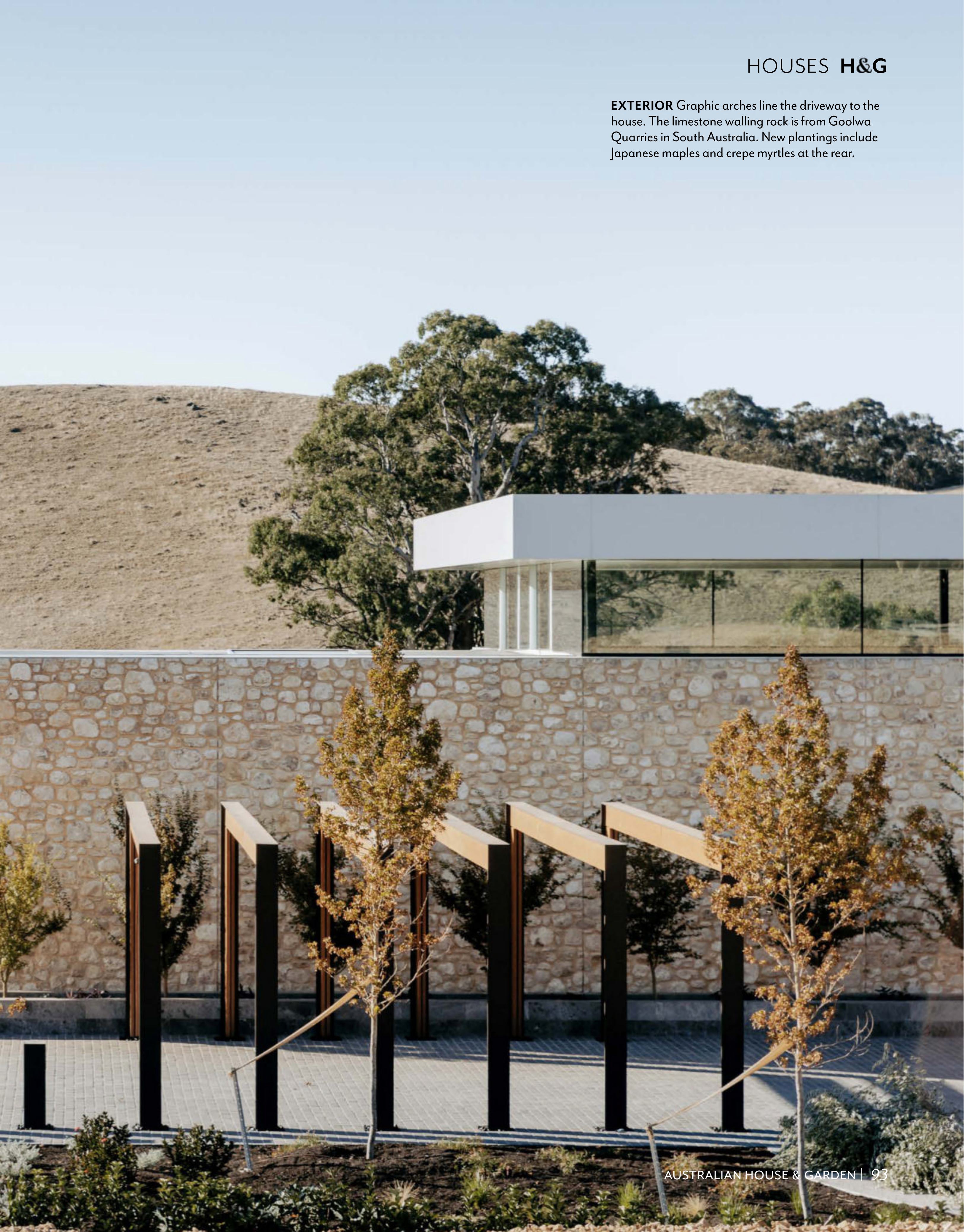
**1** Pinch 'Anders' **pendant light**, $5004, Winnings. **2** Tacchini 'Costela' **armchair**, POA, Stylecraft. **3** Steppes 'Pink Lemonade' **rug**, $3710, Hali. **4** 'Tondo' **console table**, $6050, James Said. **5** Palecek 'Eden' **vase** in Taupe, $332/small, Boyd Blue. **6** 'Etro' velvet **cushion** in Olive Stripe, $114, L&M Home. **7** 'Derby' **floor lamp**, $329, Freedom. **8** Arflex 'Bobo' **sofa**, POA, Space. **9** Kooij 'Fresnel' **wall light**, $3900, Studio Alm. **10** Sojourn 'Meadow' in Brown **wallcovering**, POA, Thibaut. **H&G**

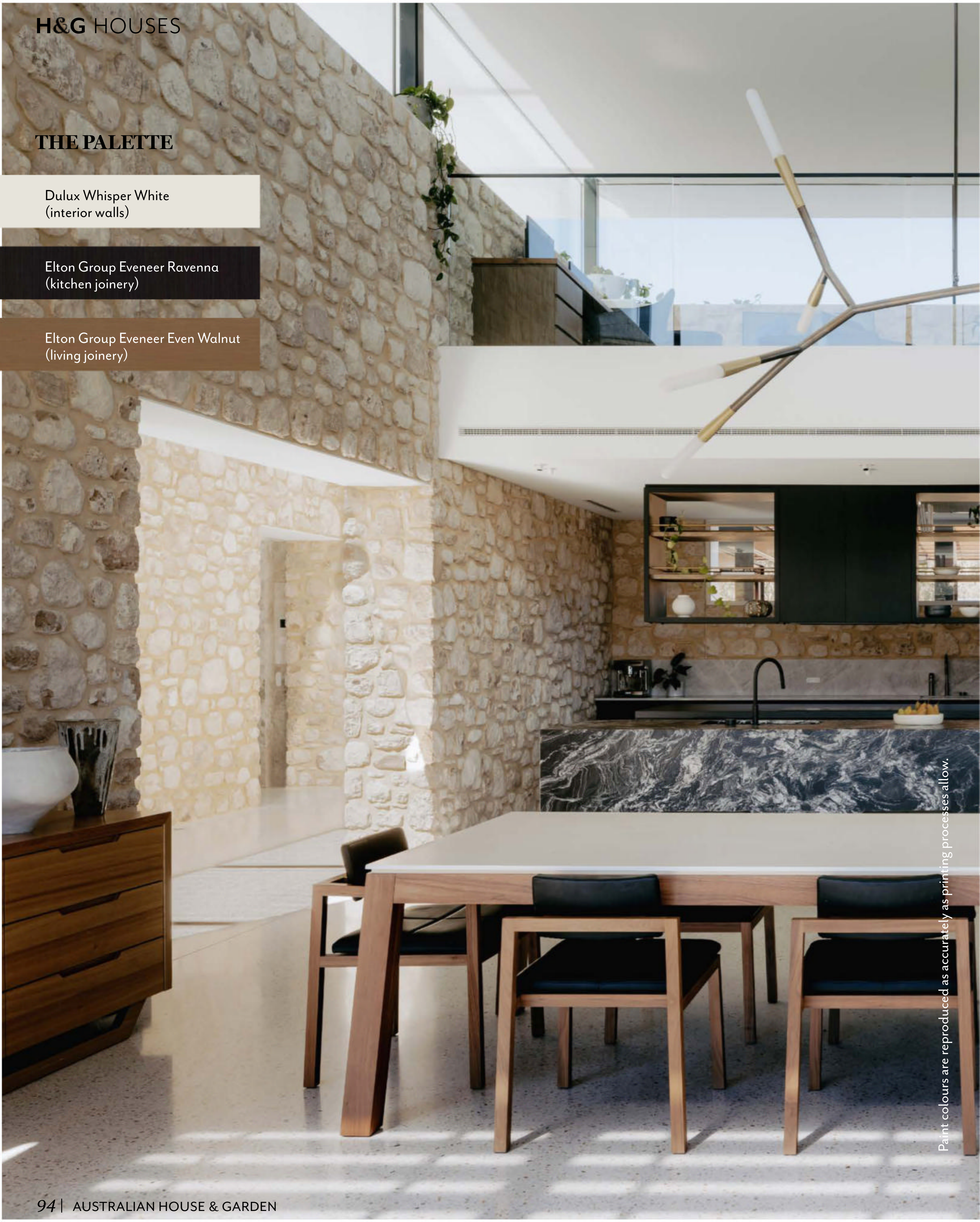
# Raise the roof

A spacious, resort-style estate in the Adelaide Hills with sky-high ceilings is a dream come true for this South Australian family.

STORY *Carli Philips* | STYLING *Maz Mis* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Christopher Morrison*

**EXTERIOR** Graphic arches line the driveway to the house. The limestone walling rock is from Goolwa Quarries in South Australia. New plantings include Japanese maples and crepe myrtles at the rear.





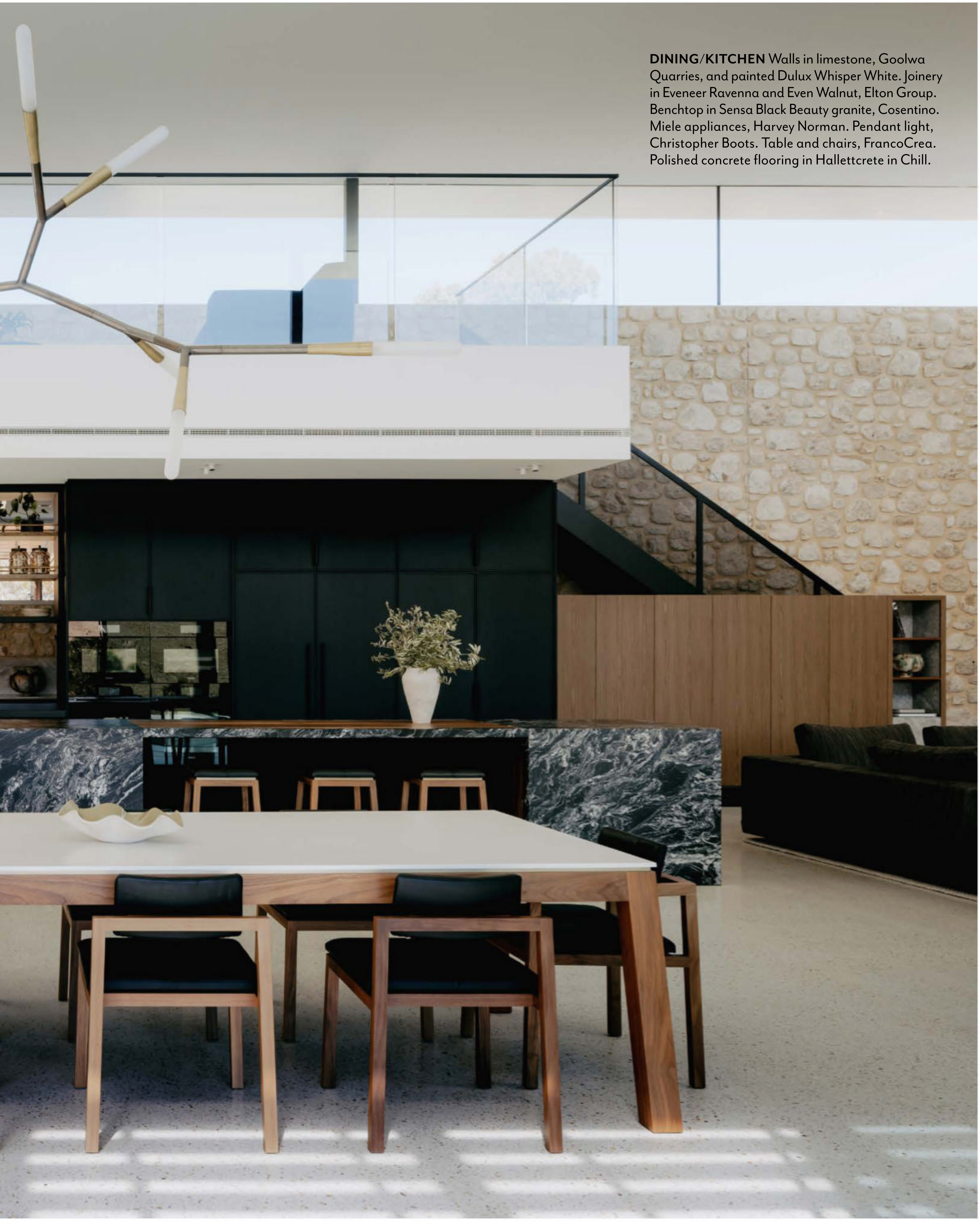
## THE PALETTE

Dulux Whisper White
(interior walls)

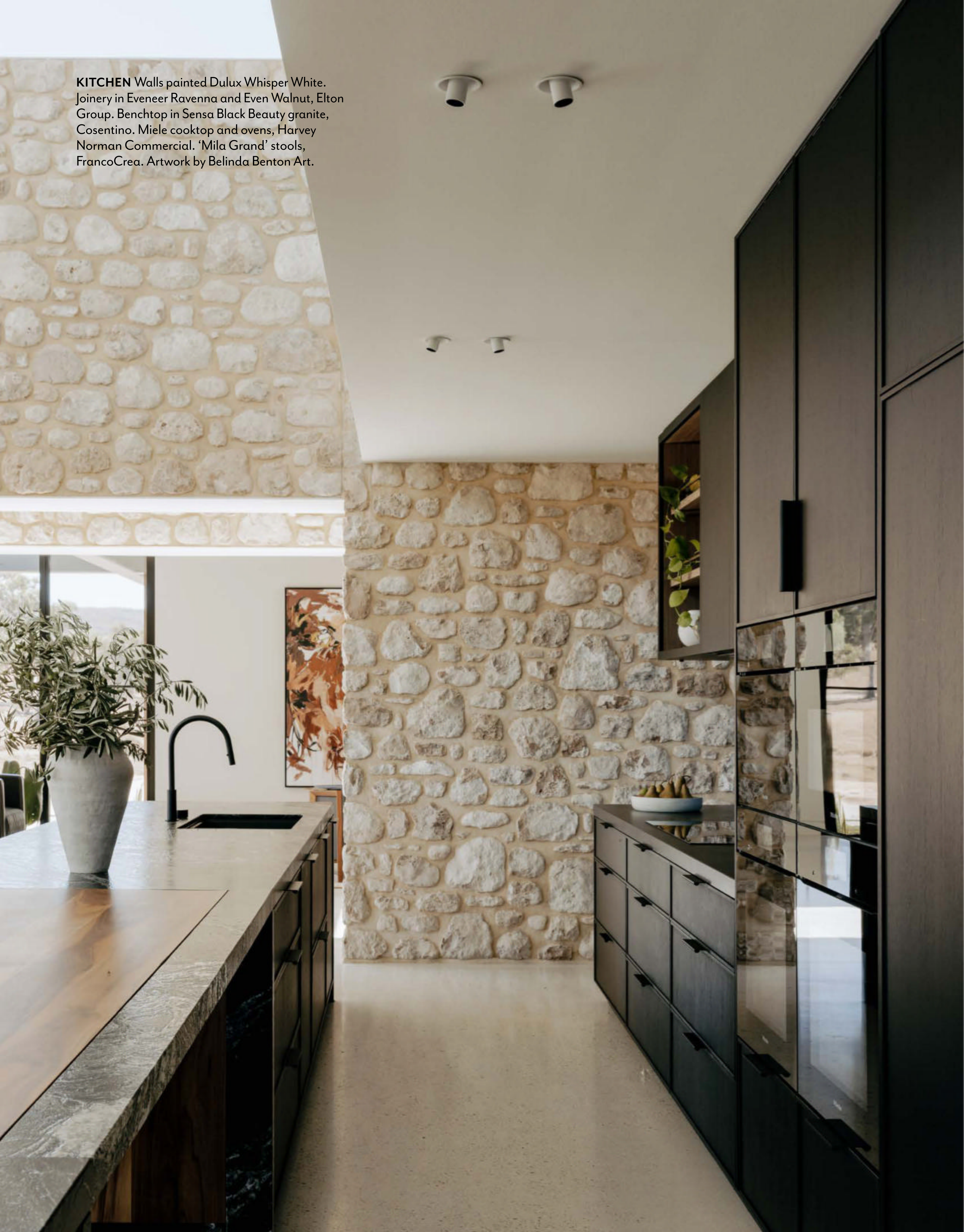
Elton Group Eveneer Ravenna
(kitchen joinery)

Elton Group Eveneer Even Walnut
(living joinery)

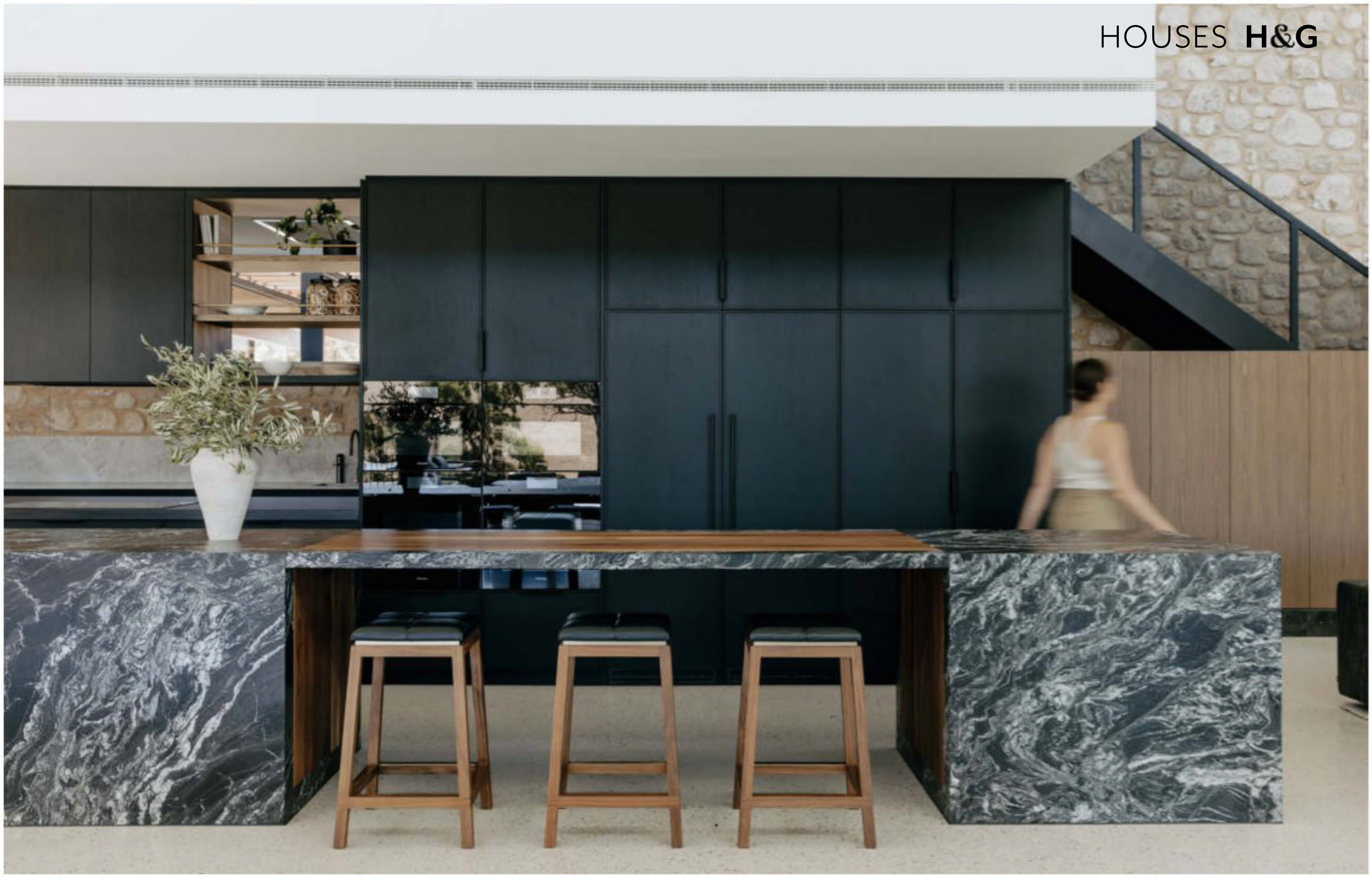
Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



**DINING/KITCHEN** Walls in limestone, Goolwa Quarries, and painted Dulux Whisper White. Joinery in Eveneer Ravenna and Even Walnut, Elton Group. Benchtop in Sensa Black Beauty granite, Cosentino. Miele appliances, Harvey Norman. Pendant light, Christopher Boots. Table and chairs, FrancoCrea. Polished concrete flooring in Hallettcrete in Chill.



**KITCHEN** Walls painted Dulux Whisper White. Joinery in Eveneer Ravenna and Even Walnut, Elton Group. Benchtop in Sensa Black Beauty granite, Cosentino. Miele cooktop and ovens, Harvey Norman Commercial. 'Mila Grand' stools, FrancoCrea. Artwork by Belinda Benton Art.



Birdsong mingles with the clip-clopping of horses and the sound of motorbikes on a private track across this sprawling property in the Adelaide Hills, spanning almost 100 acres of plains about 45 minutes from the Barossa Valley, in South Australia. Any signs of the modest shelter that occupied the pastoral land in 2016 have vanished. In its place? A contemporary home with an equestrian ring, infinity pool and recreational rooms for a family of six.

South Australian-based architecture and construction firm Glasshouse Projects had worked with the owners in the past and were brought on early to conduct an extensive site analysis to determine the optimal positioning and orientation of the home, also considering the practicalities of access to services, roads and solar movement.

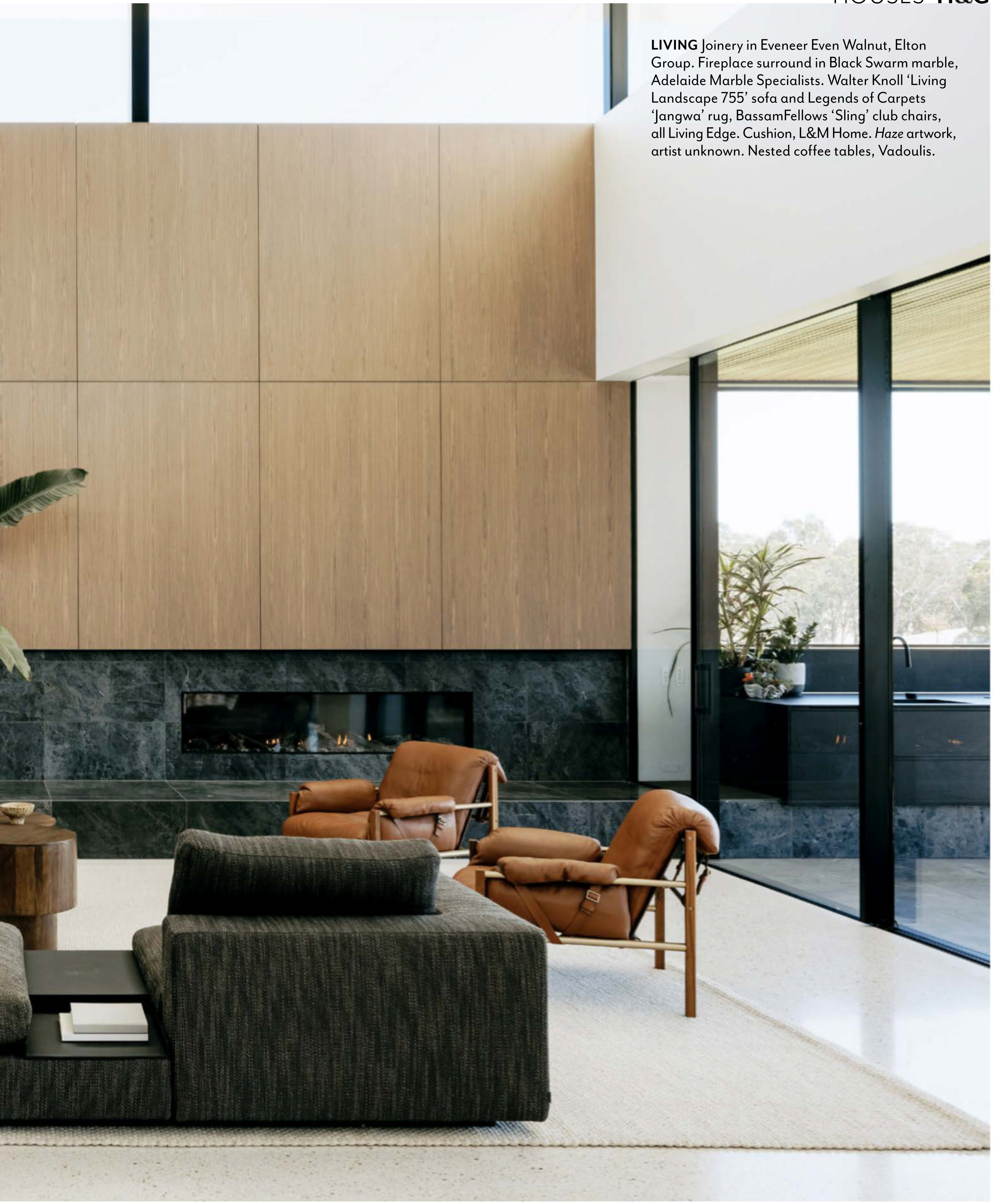
"Even before we started to discuss the brief, they got us to come out," says Don Iannicelli, architect and director of Glasshouse Projects. "We drove around and looked at things that were of geographical significance, such as the dam. Our clients wanted something special and the first step involved working out the best location for the house." The result was a northerly aspect with the focal point being a majestic gum tree.

The owner, who works in the construction industry, wanted to push the boundaries of structural steel and carpentry. This led to the development of geometric portals that form a dramatic entryway leading up to the carport. "We really considered how people would approach the building and what sort of perspective they would have," recalls Don. "The repetition and rhythm broke the scale of the large building and the imposing roof canopy."

When it came to the home's generosity and functionality, the couple were clear. "It needed to be spacious and have a resort-like feel, an open-plan living space, large windows, a black kitchen and a luxurious interior. We have a large family so we wanted lots of areas we could enjoy together when we have people over." ▶

## THIS IS THE LIFE

“We love the country lifestyle and living on a rural property,” says the owner. “The large windows and open plan living with seamless connection to the outside gives us a sense of peace and freedom. From most rooms in the house, we can easily watch the kids riding their horses, motorbikes or just playing outside. It’s a stunning home and our dream come true.”

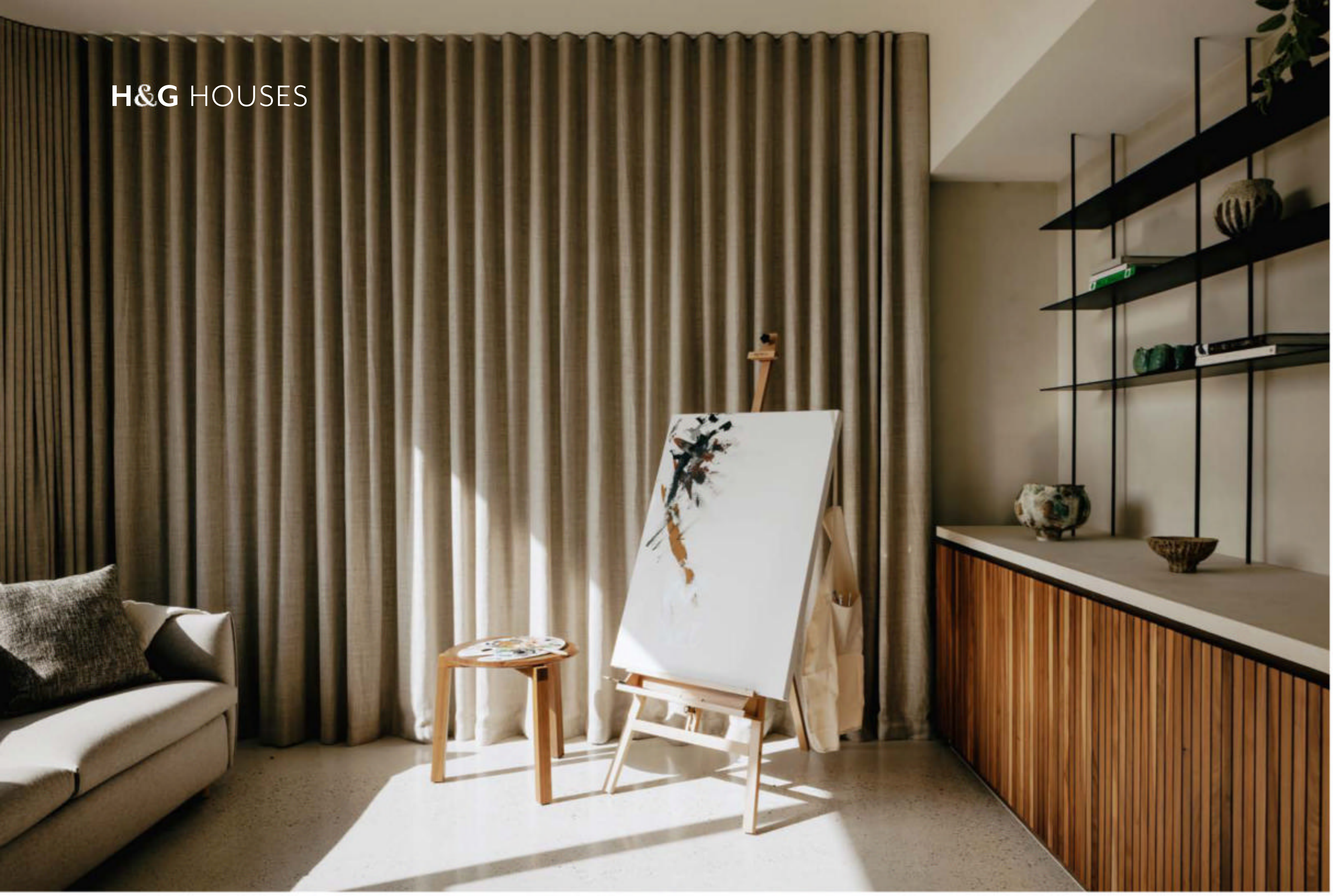


**LIVING** Joinery in Eveneer Even Walnut, Elton Group. Fireplace surround in Black Swarm marble, Adelaide Marble Specialists. Walter Knoll 'Living Landscape 755' sofa and Legends of Carpets 'Jangwa' rug, BassamFellows 'Sling' club chairs, all Living Edge. Cushion, L&M Home. *Haze* artwork, artist unknown. Nested coffee tables, Vadoulis.

“Repetition and rhythm broke the scale of the large building and the imposing roof canopy.”

DON IANNICELLI, ARCHITECT

**HALLWAY** Wall in Turco Argento tiles, CDK Stone. Floor in Hallettcrete in Chill. **LIVING** Joinery in Eveneer Even Walnut, Elton Group. Fireplace in Black Swarm marble, Adelaide Marble Specialists. Walter Knoll sofa and rug, BassamFellows chairs, all Living Edge. Artwork by unknown artist. Coffee tables, Vadoulis. **ALFRESCO** Whispair rangehood and Miele cooktop, Winnings. Tapware, Brodware. Table and seats, FrancoCrea. Floor in Black Swarm marble, Adelaide Marble Specialists.



Given the expansive land size, Don splayed out the floorplan, keeping everything on one level but with large internal volumes. The thick limestone blade walls at the entryway straddle a skylight, and the corridor looks directly out to the water and a precisely centred gum tree. "We surveyed the trunk to make sure the view would intersect and perfectly align with the central spine," explains Don. "It makes a big statement."

The shared family area is at the heart of the house, a vast and voluminous living zone with 6.5 metre ceilings and a soaring wall in limestone sourced from Goolwa Quarries in South Australia (more than 1500 tonnes was used in the construction). A perforated steel staircase leads up to the mezzanine, which is used as a breakout study and playroom for the kids. "There's a level of privacy and separation up here but also a strong connection to the living space," says Don.

The loft hovers above the kitchen, which lowers the ceiling to create a more intimate cooking area. Their specifications here were all about functionality. "He is an avid cook, so we designed lots of organisational compartments, such as baskets especially for potatoes, drawers measured for Glad Wrap and custom racks for cake tins, chopping boards, and herbs and spices," says Don. The dining and living zone open onto an alfresco deck with furniture from FrancoCrea.

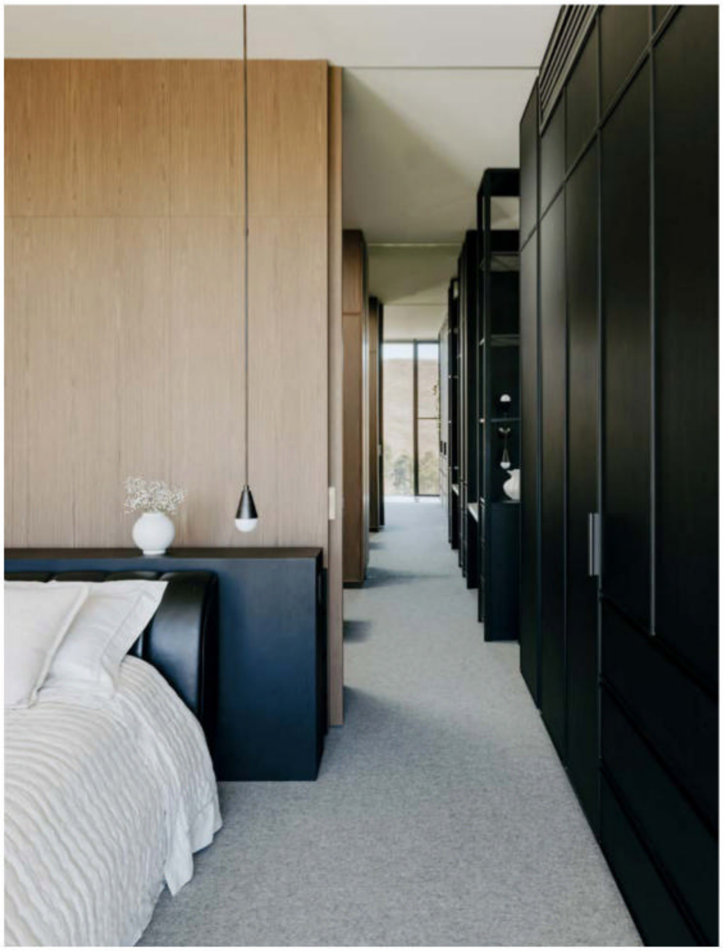
At the end of the house, is the main wing, a generous space in a masculine palette of monochromatic finishes including thundery-grey Black Swarm marble with feathery-white veining. At the opposite end are the children's quarters: four bedrooms of equal proportions, all of which look out to the pool. There are also recreational areas, including piano and art rooms.

The end result has thrilled the owners. "From the polished concrete floors to the warm walnut cabinetry combined with stone benches, limestone and touches of brass, Glasshouse Projects nailed our brief in every way." ▶

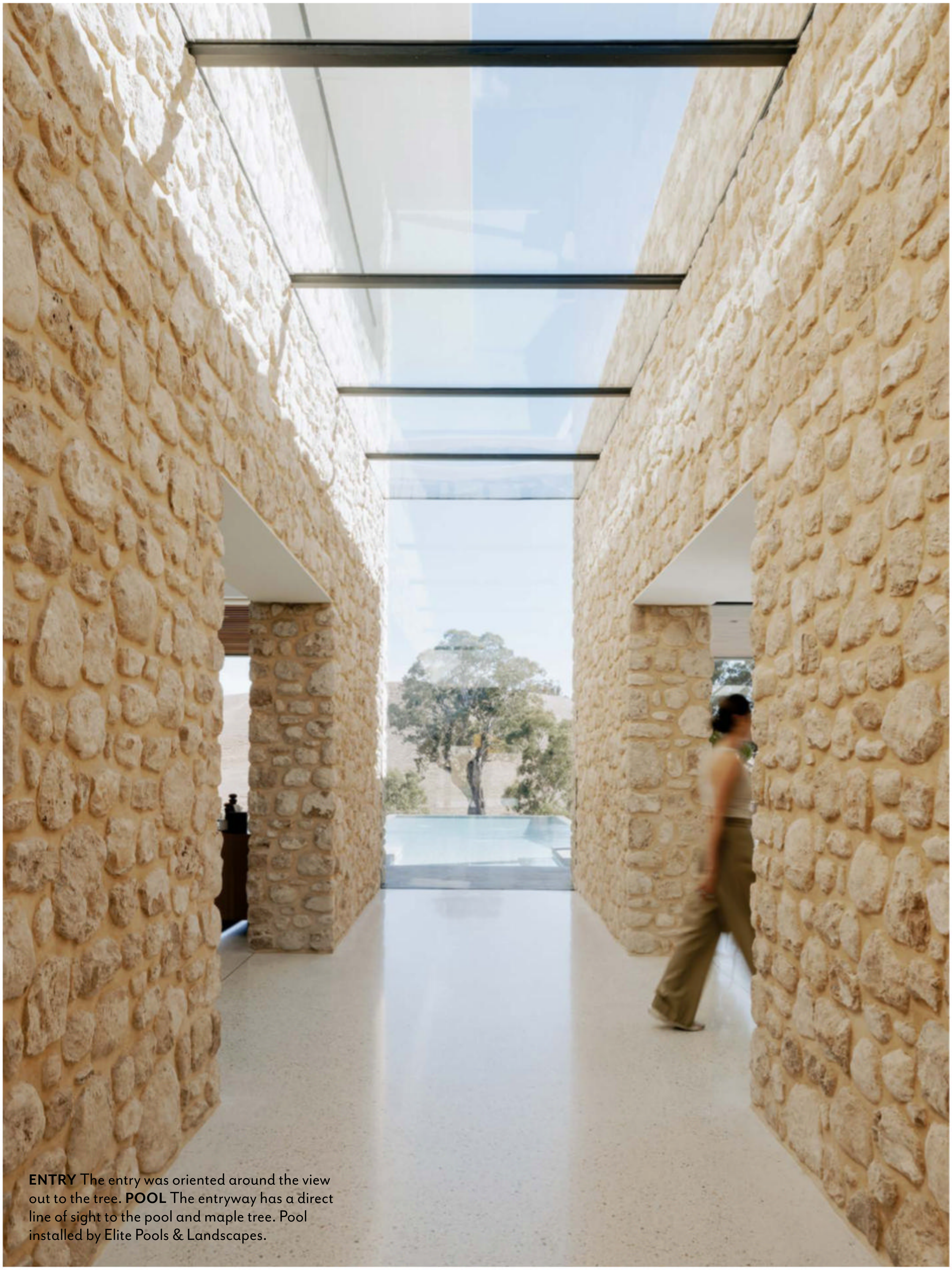
***Glasshouse Projects:** glasshouseprojects.com.au.*

> “It needed to be spacious, have a resort-like feel, large windows and a luxurious interior.”
>
> THE OWNER

**POWDER ROOM** Ex.t ‘Arco’ mirror, mixer, basin and shelving system, The Source. **KIDS’ BATHROOM** Turco Argento wall tiles, CDK Stone. Vanity in walnut timber. Concrete benchtop, Novacolor. Tapware, Brodware. ‘Curve’ hooks, Normann Copenhagen. **ART ROOM** Joinery in walnut timber. Concrete benchtop, Novacolor. Curtains, Westbury Textiles. Sofa, Jardan.



**MAIN BEDROOM** Walls and joinery in Eveneer Ravenna (dark) and Eveneer Even Walnut (timber tone), all Elton Group. Apparatus 'Triad 1' pendant light, Criteria Collection. Bed linen, L&M Home. Tretford carpet in Silver Birch, Gibbon Group. **ENSUITE** Wall, vanity and floor in Black Swarm marble, Adelaide Marble Specialists. Rogerseller bath, tapware and towel rail, Winnings.



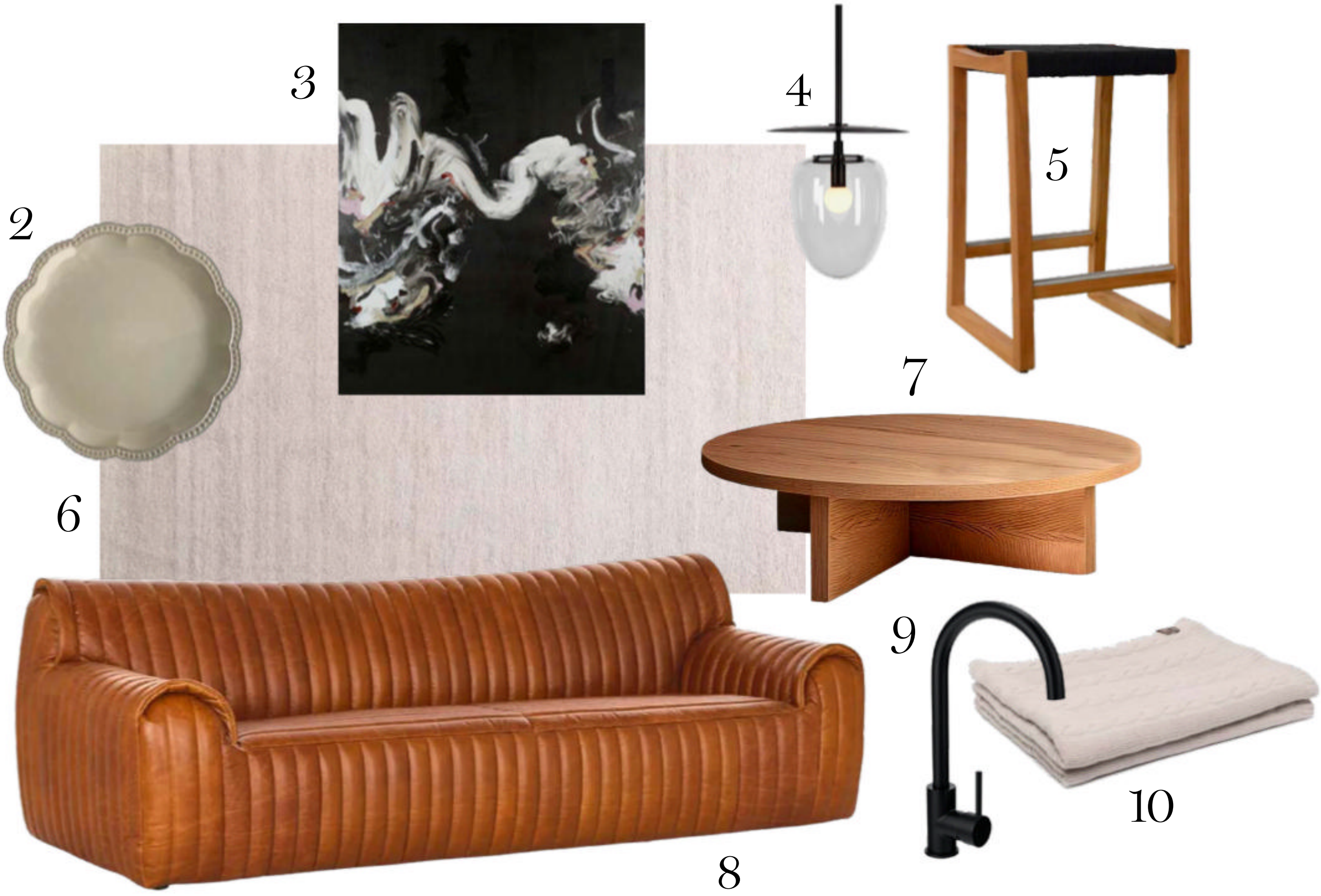
**ENTRY** The entry was oriented around the view out to the tree. **POOL** The entryway has a direct line of sight to the pool and maple tree. Pool installed by Elite Pools & Landscapes.

> “We really considered how people would approach the building and what sort of perspective they would have.”
>
> DON IANNICELLI, ARCHITECT

**TERRACE** Outdoor sofa, armchairs, coffee tables and cushions, all FrancoCrea. Pool installed by Elite Pools & Landscapes.

# THE SOURCE

*Robust leather and timber furnishings in bold shapes anchor a space and create a sense of cohesion.*



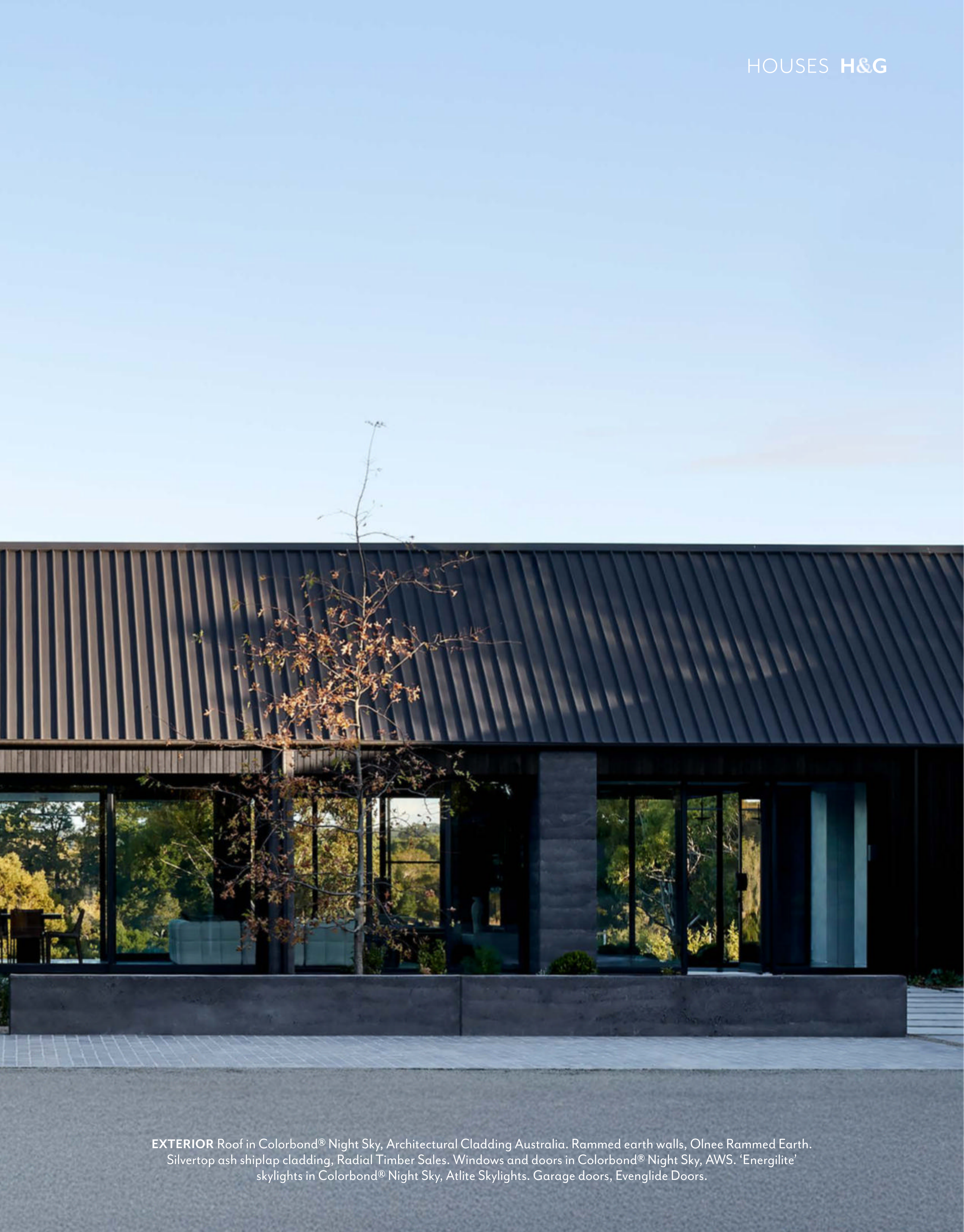
**1** Muuto 'Ridge' **vase** in Beige, $215, Top3 by Design. **2** 'Ponti' ceramic scalloped **main plate** in Cream, $95, Alex and Trahanas. **3** *From Strength to Strength* **artwork** by Lee J Morgan, $3850, leejmorgan.com.au. **4** Roll&Hill 'Bell 01' **pendant light**, POA, Space. **5** Satara 'Rodos' **bar stool** in Black/Teak, $903, Bar Stools. **6** 'Esperance' **rug** in Sand (300x200cm), $3017, King Living. **7** NONO 'Fundamenta' **round table**, $9369.65, 1stDibs. **8** 'Aspen' leather **sofa** in Tan, $6395, Coco Republic. **9** 'Elysian' **kitchen mixer** in Matte Black, $229.90, ABI Interiors. **10** N.Peal cable-knit **cashmere throw**, $1863, Farfetch. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

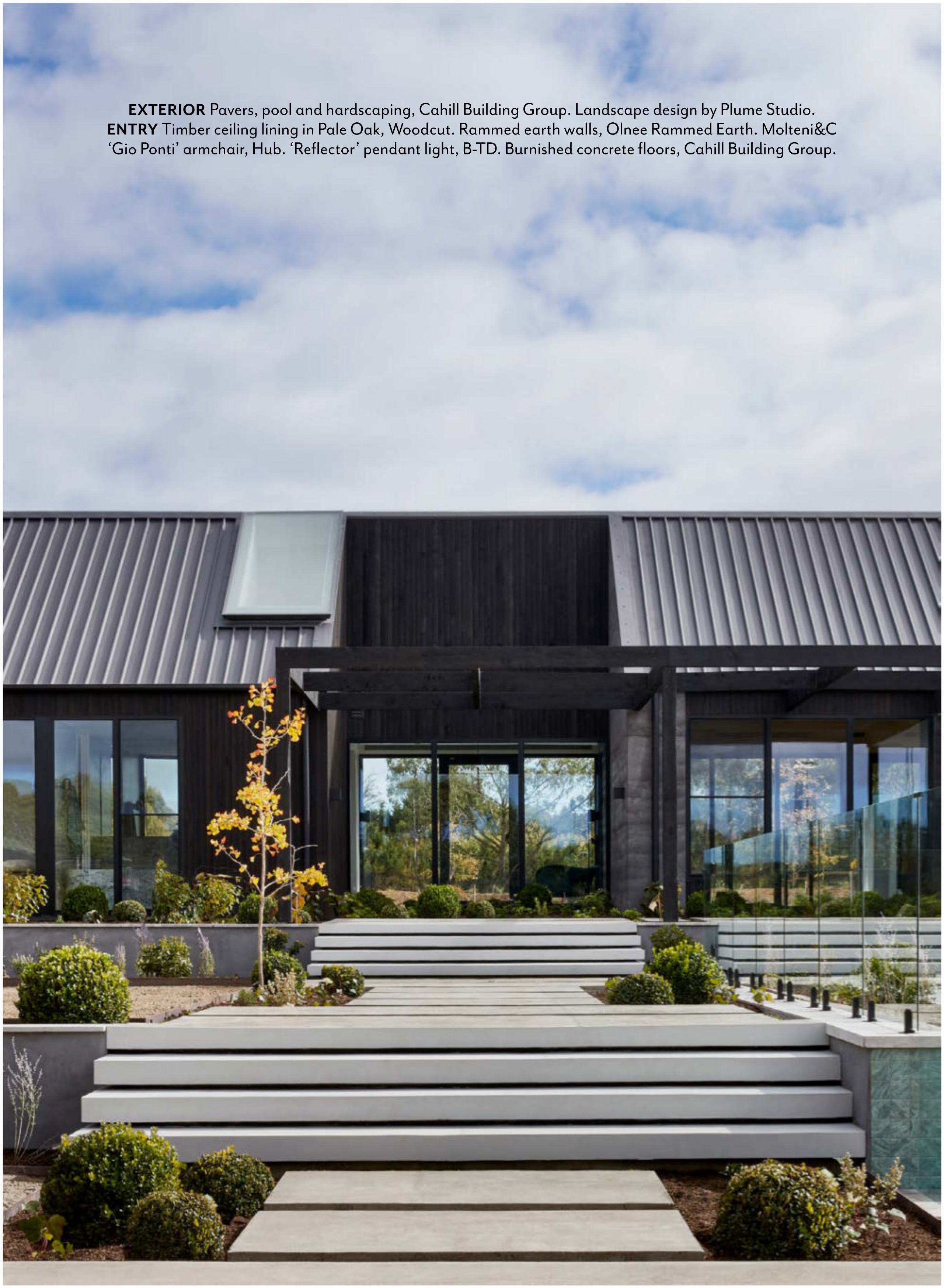
# DRAMATIC *scene*

This smart family home on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula deftly blends town and country, and indoors and out.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Shannon McGrath*



**EXTERIOR** Roof in Colorbond® Night Sky, Architectural Cladding Australia. Rammed earth walls, Olnee Rammed Earth. Silvertop ash shiplap cladding, Radial Timber Sales. Windows and doors in Colorbond® Night Sky, AWS. 'Energilite' skylights in Colorbond® Night Sky, Atlite Skylights. Garage doors, Evenglide Doors.



**EXTERIOR** Pavers, pool and hardscaping, Cahill Building Group. Landscape design by Plume Studio. **ENTRY** Timber ceiling lining in Pale Oak, Woodcut. Rammed earth walls, Olnee Rammed Earth. Molteni&C 'Gio Ponti' armchair, Hub. 'Reflector' pendant light, B-TD. Burnished concrete floors, Cahill Building Group.

While it may be home to milliner Fleur and her family, there's nothing remotely old hat about this inspired hideaway, hunkered among the moonahs and tea trees on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, with beach and breakers mere minutes away. Paradoxically perhaps, rustic and refined, the home touches the earth lightly and offers an alluring blend of country, coastal and city sophistication.

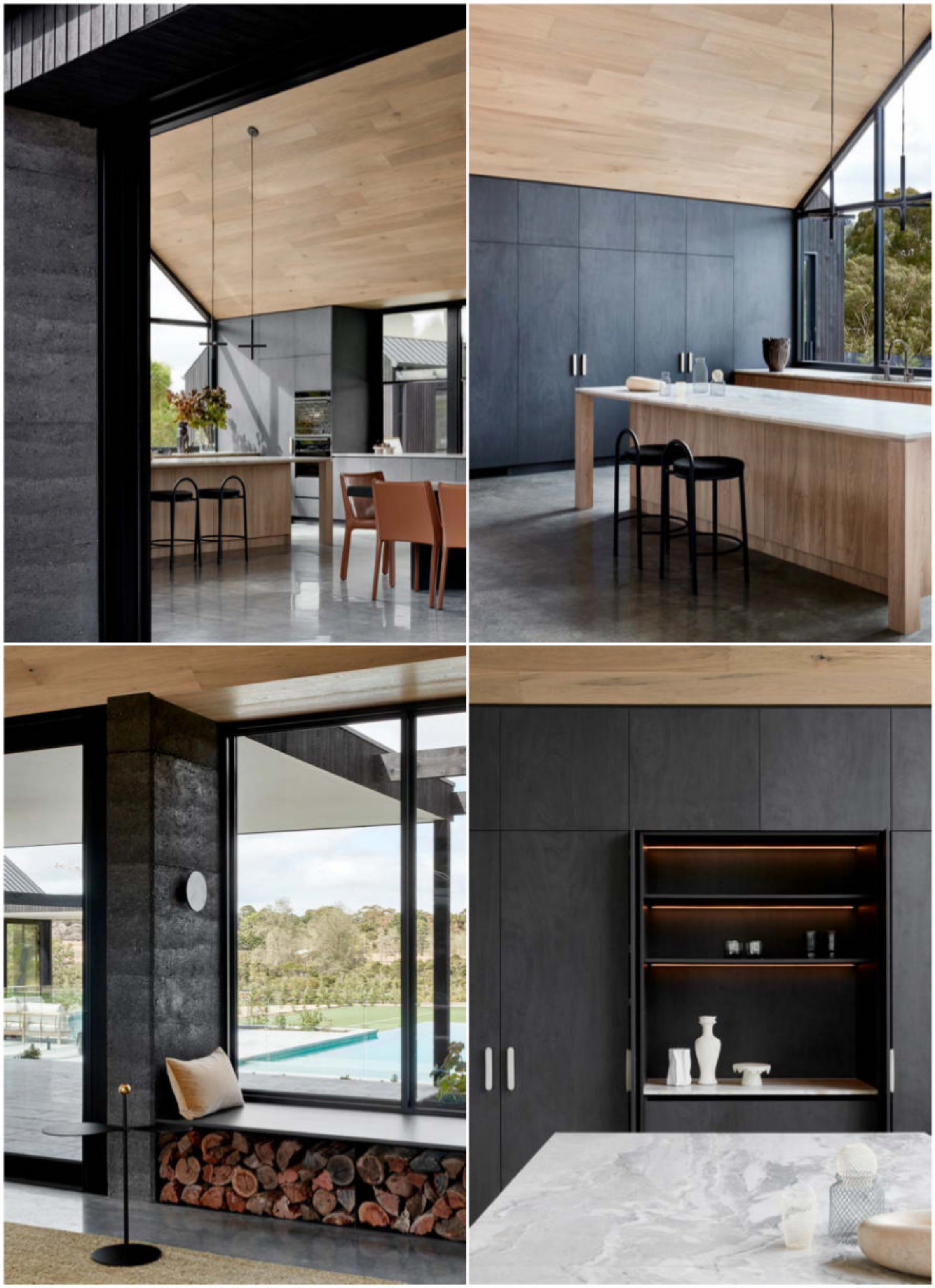
When Fleur and husband Damon bought the property in 2021, it was occupied by a ho-hum weatherboard. "We fell in love with the block, with its open rural energy, quiet and full of sky, and yet minutes from the best beach," says Fleur. "With views across horse paddocks and trees, it felt like you were on a farm." But widespread mould spelled the demise of the original house, which made way for a smart new build by Gillianne Griffiths of interior architects Studio Griffiths, with DX Architects.

In the couple's brief, the practical needs of the family, with two children – Cora, now seven, and Betsy, three – were clear. "We wanted something that worked hard for family life – open-plan spaces, good flow, finishes that could handle the chaos of the kids' daily mess and loads of storage for the Barbies!" she says. Plus, a dedicated home office, gym and atelier for Fleur. ▶

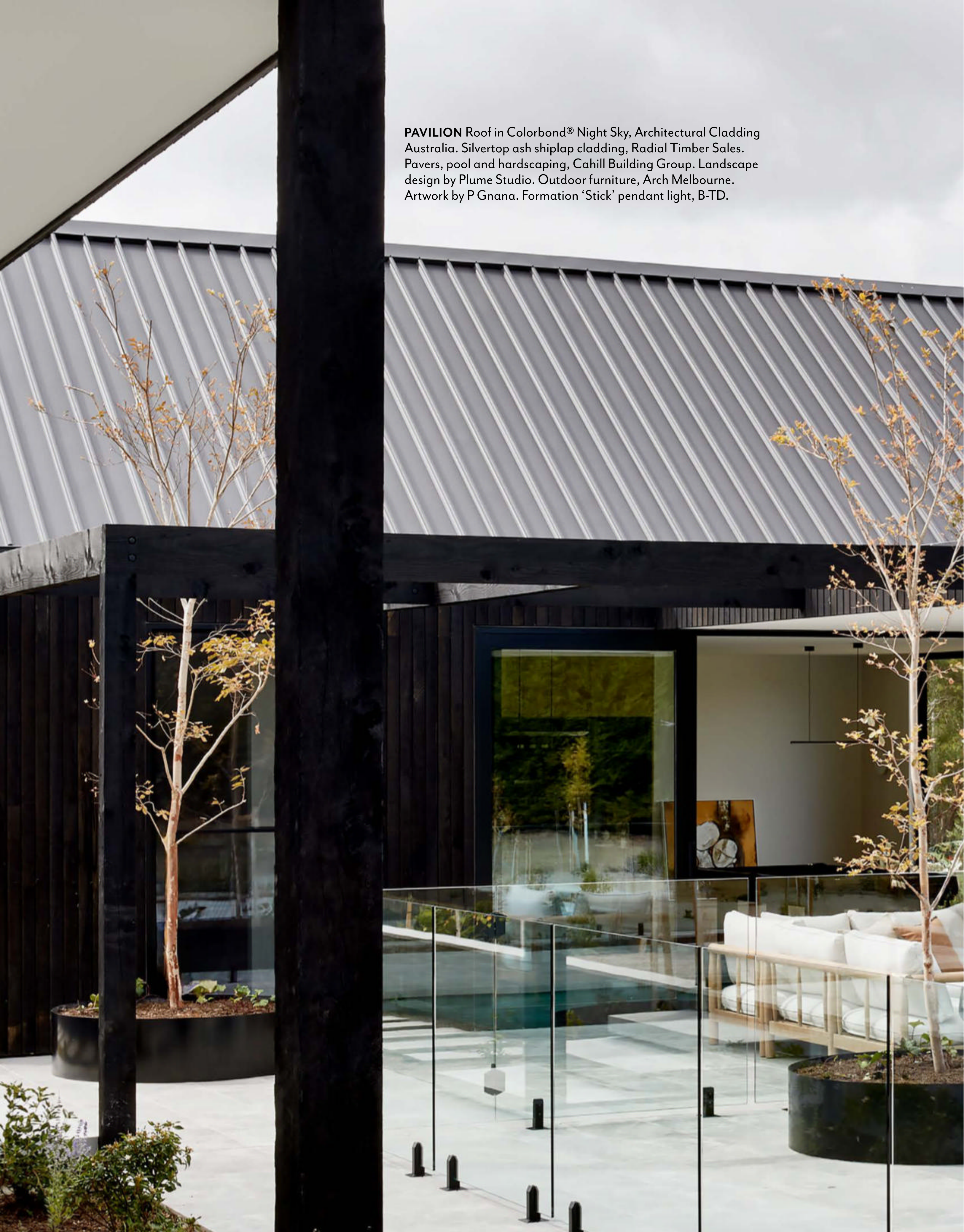
### THIS IS THE LIFE

"In summer, we're outside constantly," says Fleur. "The way the living room flows out to the alfresco, pool and pool house is just so inviting. It all works together in such an easy, natural way, and makes entertaining relaxed and effortless. We have never been so popular with visitors!" It's truly a family home – lived in, loud and full of life. "The girls trail toys from one end of the house to the other."

> "Nothing too polished or perfect – we wanted finishes with warmth and character."
>
> FLEUR, OWNER



**KITCHEN** *Top left and right, and bottom right* Tall joinery in Polytec Woodmatt Black Ply. Island joinery in Evenex Sincro Aspen Elm, Elton Group. Benchtop in Verde Oceania marble, CDK Stone. 'Mckinney' bar stools, Freedom. Dining chairs, Arch Melbourne. Pendant light, Nightworks Studio. Miele wall ovens, Winnings. Handles, The Arc Dept. **LIVING** *Bottom left* Wall, Olnee Rammed Earth. Wall light, Inlite. Side table, Domo. Rug, Arch Melbourne. **MUDROOM** *Opposite* Ceiling painted Dulux Natural White. Walls in Waterstone polished plaster, Bishop Master Finishes. Table, chairs and cushions, Arch Melbourne. Joinery in Polytec Woodmatt Black Ply. Engineered timber flooring in Pale Oak, Woodcut.



**PAVILION** Roof in Colorbond® Night Sky, Architectural Cladding Australia. Silvertop ash shiplap cladding, Radial Timber Sales. Pavers, pool and hardscaping, Cahill Building Group. Landscape design by Plume Studio. Outdoor furniture, Arch Melbourne. Artwork by P Gnana. Formation 'Stick' pendant light, B-TD.

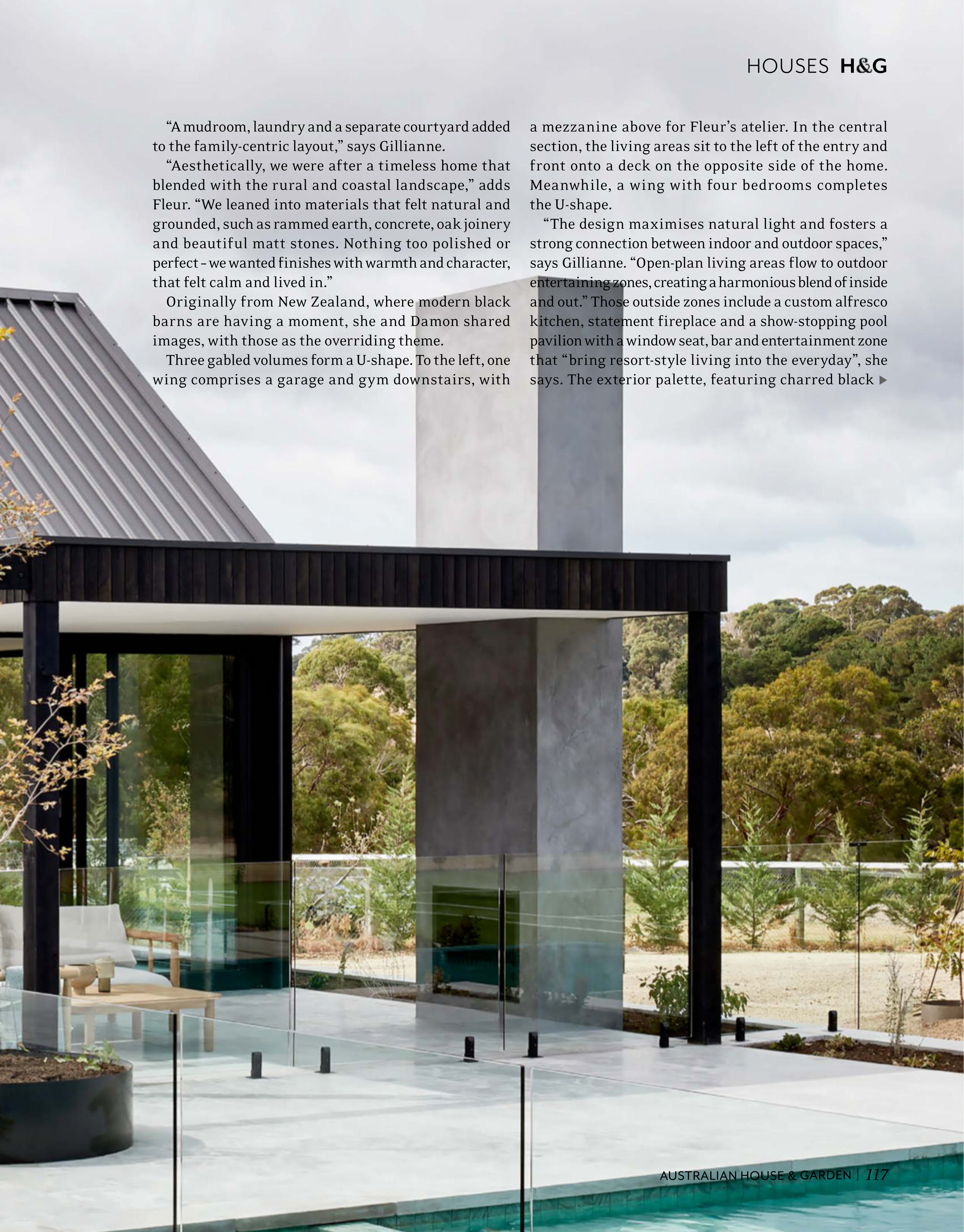
"A mudroom, laundry and a separate courtyard added to the family-centric layout," says Gillianne.

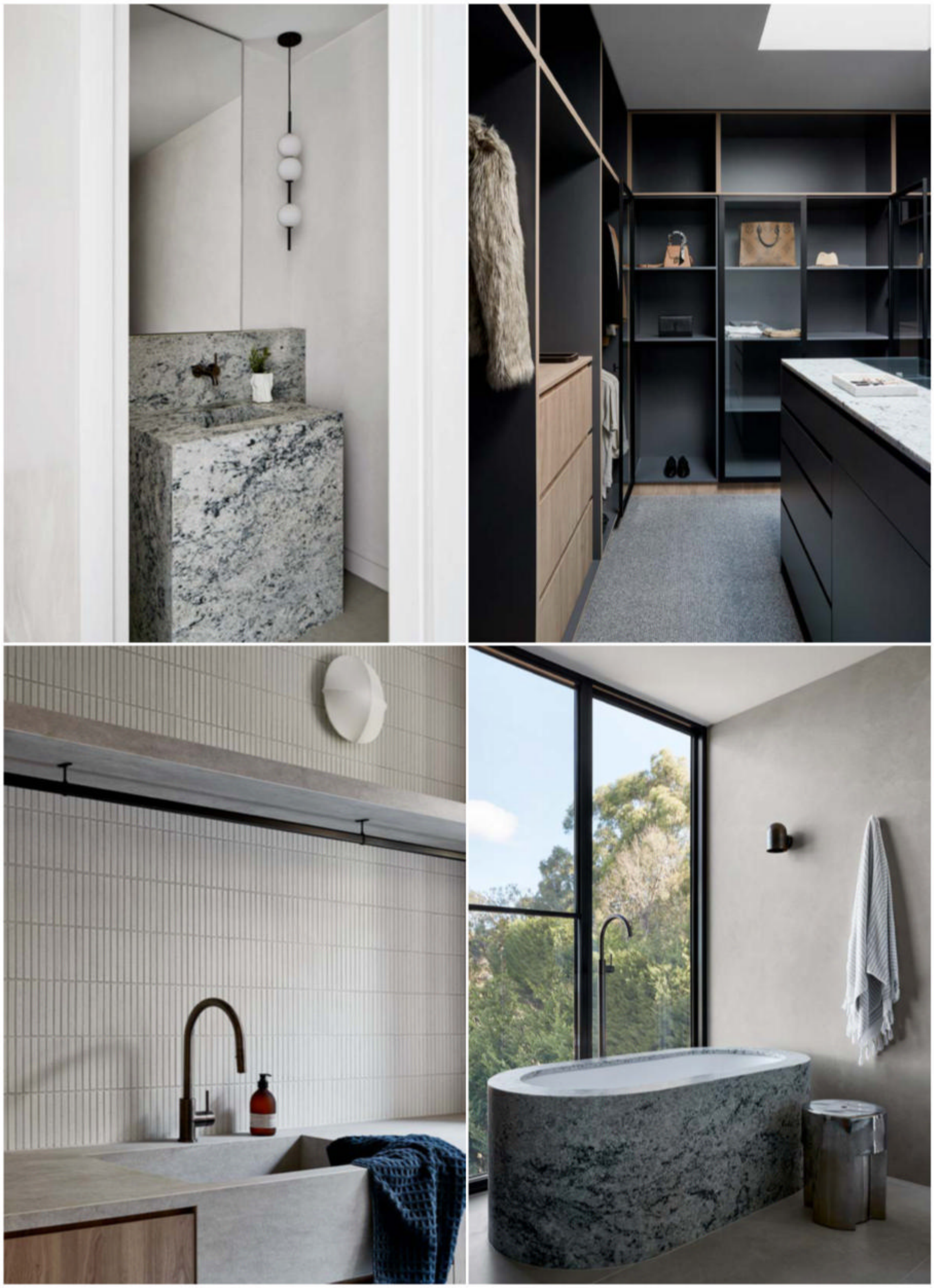
"Aesthetically, we were after a timeless home that blended with the rural and coastal landscape," adds Fleur. "We leaned into materials that felt natural and grounded, such as rammed earth, concrete, oak joinery and beautiful matt stones. Nothing too polished or perfect – we wanted finishes with warmth and character, that felt calm and lived in."

Originally from New Zealand, where modern black barns are having a moment, she and Damon shared images, with those as the overriding theme.

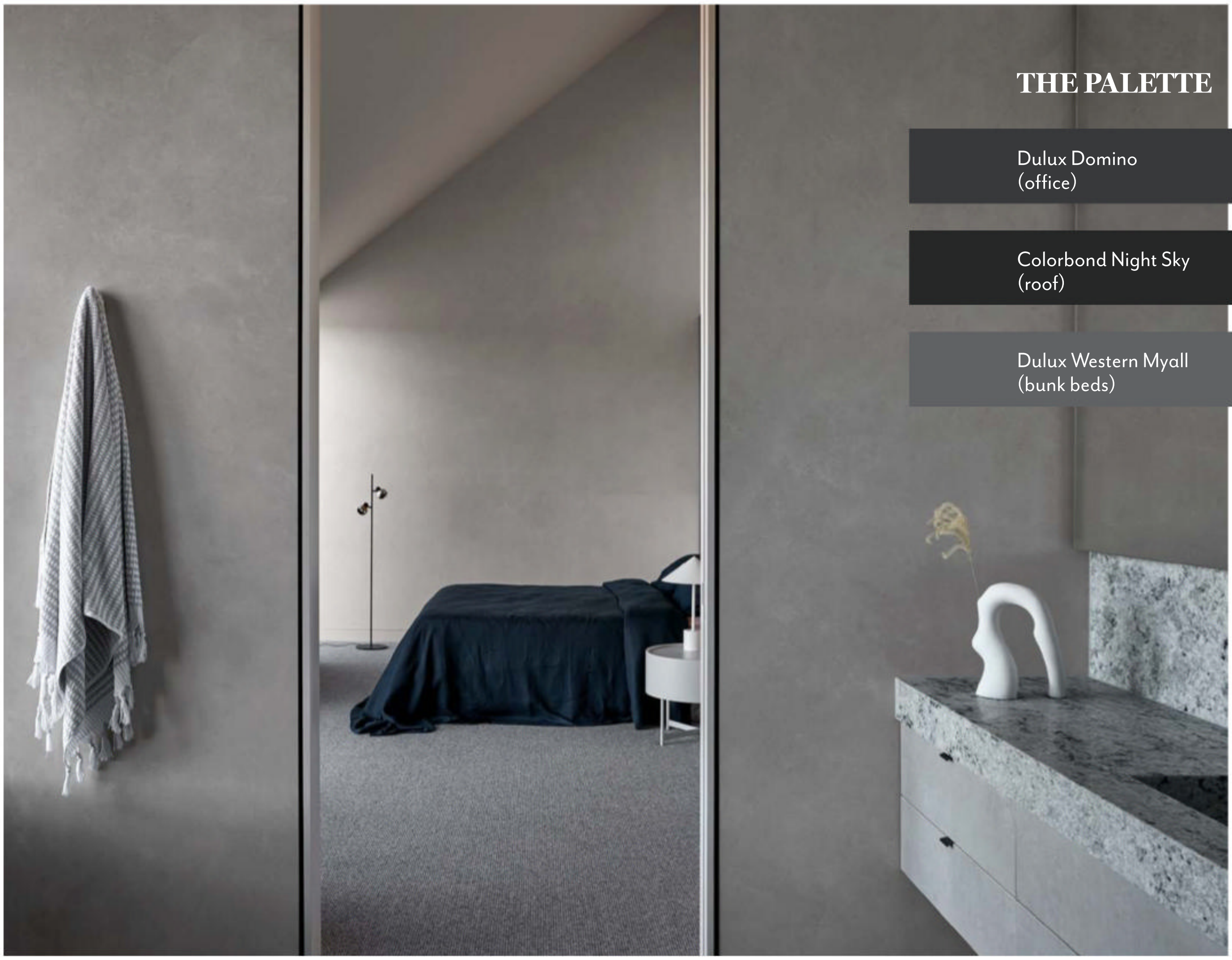
Three gabled volumes form a U-shape. To the left, one wing comprises a garage and gym downstairs, with a mezzanine above for Fleur's atelier. In the central section, the living areas sit to the left of the entry and front onto a deck on the opposite side of the home. Meanwhile, a wing with four bedrooms completes the U-shape.

"The design maximises natural light and fosters a strong connection between indoor and outdoor spaces," says Gillianne. "Open-plan living areas flow to outdoor entertaining zones, creating a harmonious blend of inside and out." Those outside zones include a custom alfresco kitchen, statement fireplace and a show-stopping pool pavilion with a window seat, bar and entertainment zone that "bring resort-style living into the everyday", she says. The exterior palette, featuring charred black ▶





*Clockwise from top left* **POWDER ROOM** Pendant light, Nightworks Studio. Vanity in Bianco Typhoon granite, CDK Stone. Floor tiles, Artedomus. **ROBE** Joinery in Laminex Stormcloud, and Evenex Aspen Elm, Elton Group. Benchtop in Bianco Typhoon granite, CDK Stone. 'Overtones' carpet, Bremworth. **ENSUITE** Wall light, Nightworks Studio. Floor mixer, Brodware. Kaldewei bath, Winnings. Bath surround in Bianco Typhoon granite, CDK Stone. Stool, Arch Melbourne. **LAUNDRY** Wall tiles, Academy Tiles. Wall sconce, Koda Lighting. Mixer tap, Brodware. Evenex Aspen Elm veneer, Elton Group. Benchtop in Fiandre Urban Ivory porcelain, Artedomus. **MAIN BEDROOM & ENSUITE** *Opposite* Vanity in Bianco Typhoon granite, CDK Stone. Drawer fronts in Fiandre Urban porcelain, Artedomus. Sculpture by Stephanie Phillips. Ligne Roset floor lamp, Domo. Bed linen, Abode Living. Bedside table, Collective Australia. OYOY table lamp, Designstuff.



## THE PALETTE

Dulux Domino
(office)

Colorbond Night Sky
(roof)

Dulux Western Myall
(bunk beds)

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

timber and rammed earth, reinforces the connection to the natural environment while offering durability and sustainability. "Black steel doors and windows are equally defining, offering strength and delicacy."

Inside, lofty cathedral ceilings frame sky and bushland through expansive A-frame glazing, creating "a living artwork", says Gillianne. The soaring ceilings, clad in oak, amplify the sense of space while also being cossetting and warm, the timber reprised in the floors and joinery, softening the industrial edge of burnished concrete.

"The palette moves from dark and dramatic in the shared spaces to softer and more serene in private areas, creating a balance that's calming and cohesive," Gillianne says.

Furniture selections echo the architecture – contemporary and sculptural while grounded in functionality. "From the dramatic lighting in the entry void to the sleek ethanol fireplace and custom joinery, each element contributes to the sense of subtle opulence." Sculptural lighting fills the voids and draws the eye downwards into the living areas.

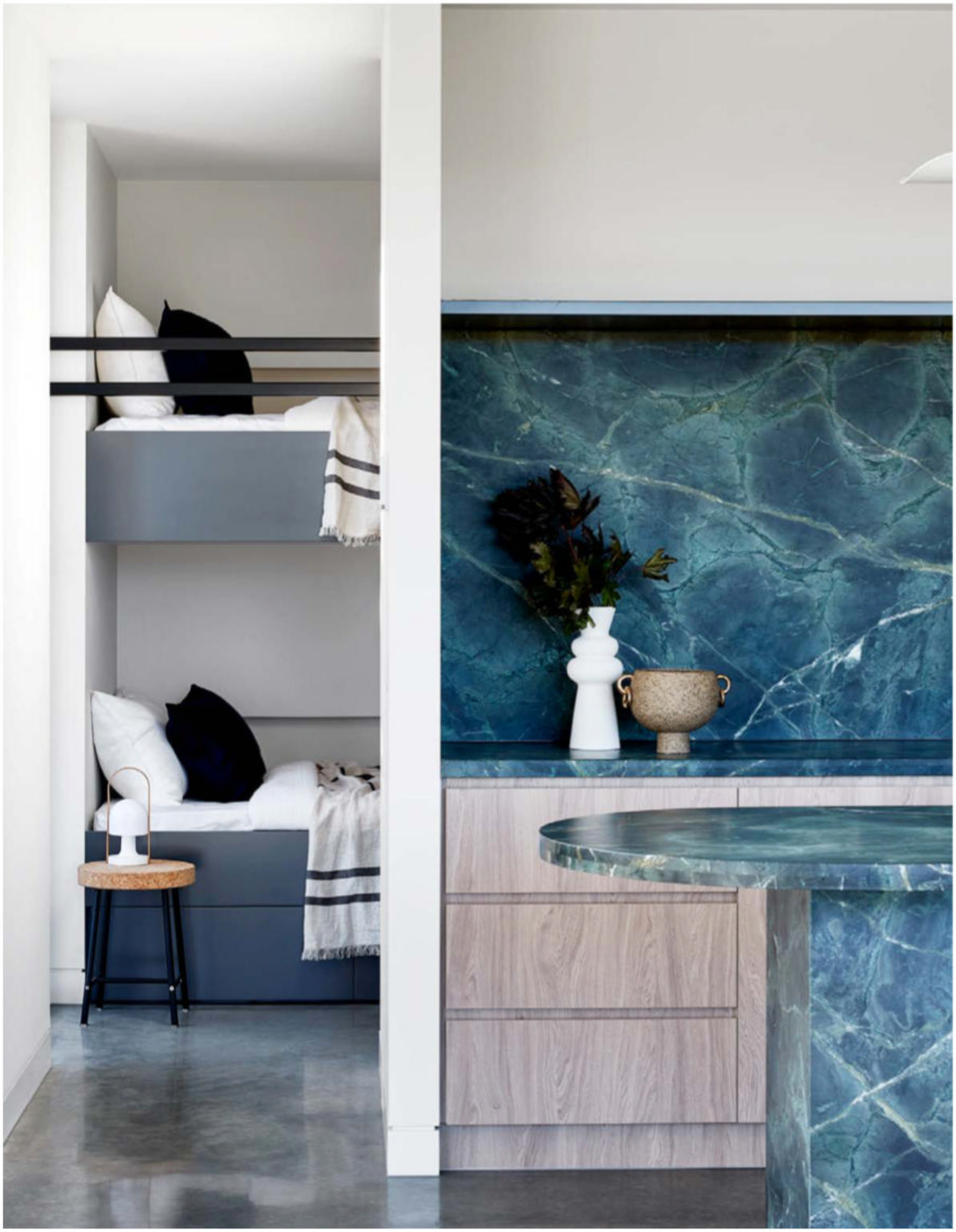
"Perhaps the most fulfilling aspect for me is the way this home lives," says Gillianne. "Its open-plan spaces and layered materials offer both celebration and retreat, with the alfresco area and pool pavilion centrepieces of modern family living."

Fleur is rapt with the connection to the landscape. "The six-metre raked ceiling in the living room gives such a sense of openness and calm – it's quietly dramatic without feeling cold," she says. "And the morning light that floods through the huge kitchen window (which beautifully frames the garden) is just magic. What more do you want when eating your Weet-Bix?" ▶

***Studio Griffiths:*** *studiogriffiths.com.au.*
***DX Architects:*** *dxarchitects.com.au.*
***Cahill Building Group:*** *cahillbg.com.au.*

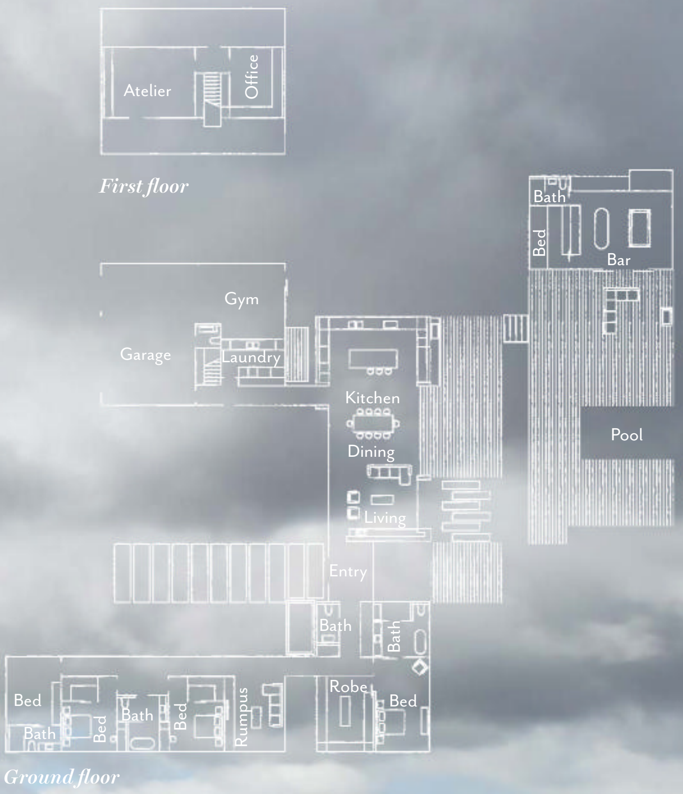
“Its open-plan spaces and layered materials offer both celebration and retreat.”

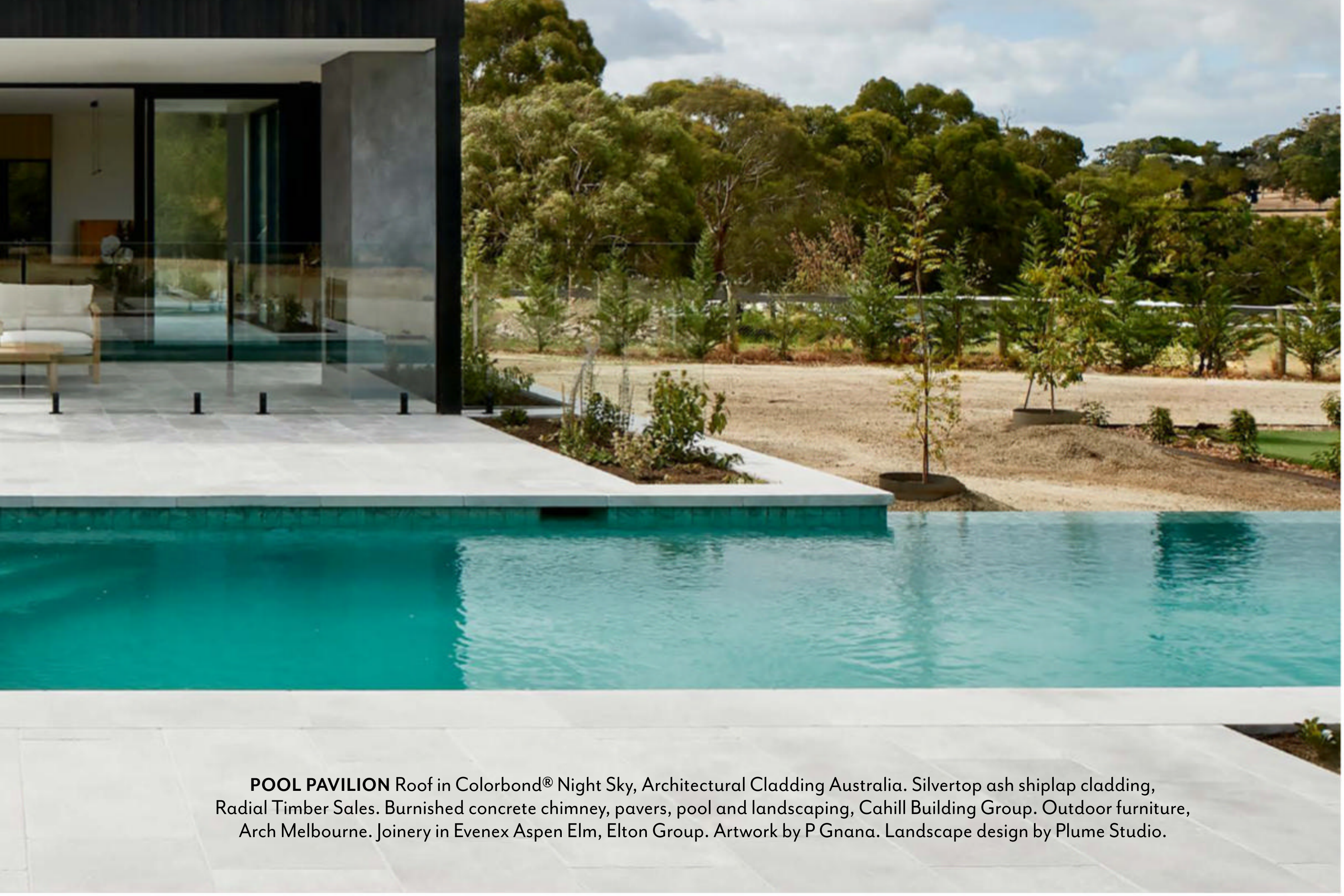
GILLIANNE GRIFFITHS, INTERIOR DESIGNER



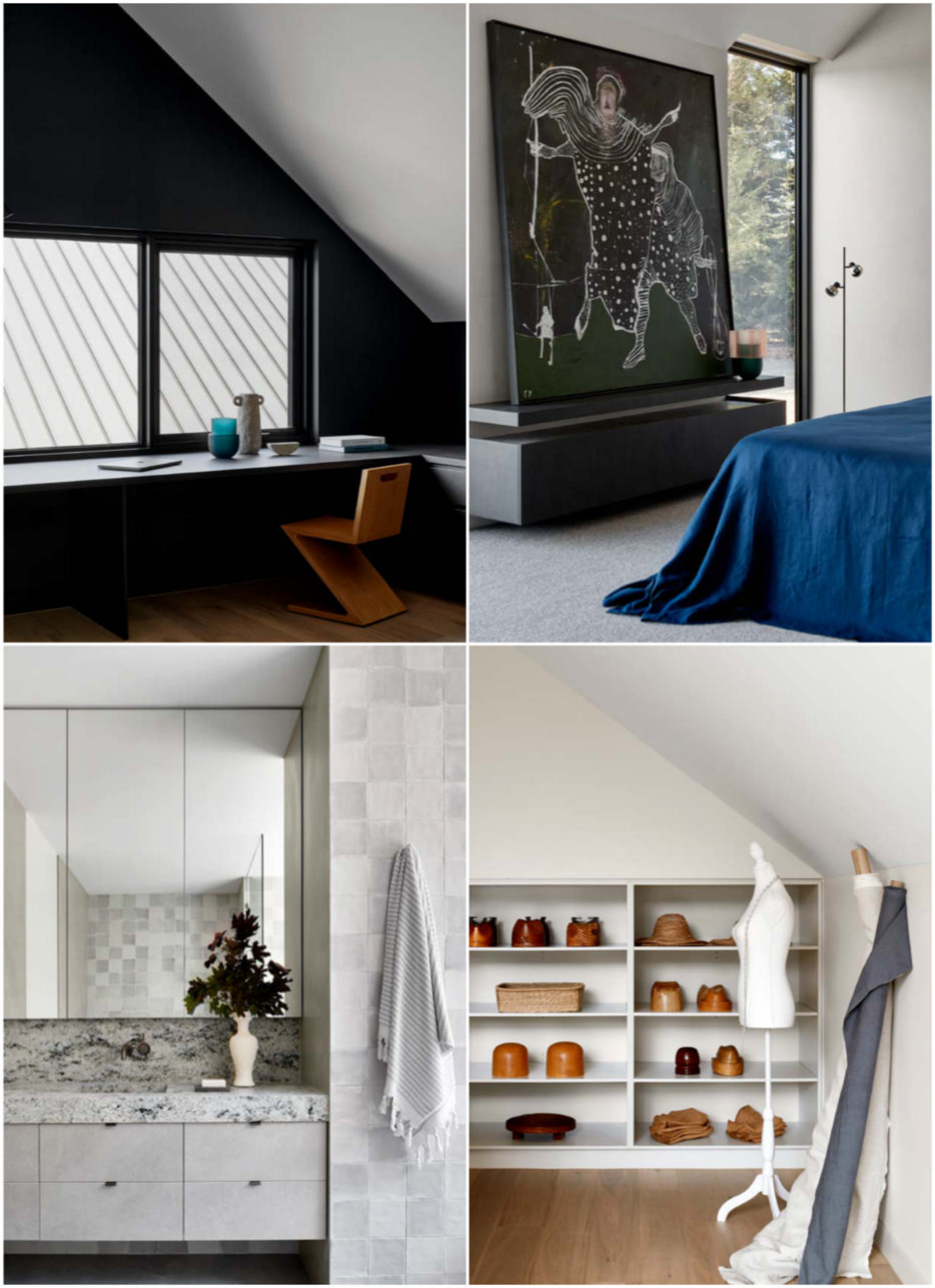
**POOL PAVILION KITCHEN** *This page and opposite* Ceiling and walls painted Dulux Natural White. Joinery in Evenex Aspen Elm veneer, Elton Group. Benchtop, island and splashback in Dedalus marble, Signorino. Handles, The Arc Dept. Mixer, Brodware. Pendant light, B-TD. 'Billi B5000' dispenser, Billi Australia. 'Sketch' bar stool, GlobeWest. **BUNK ROOM** Bunks in Dulux Western Myall. Bed linen, Abode Living. Stool, Arch Melbourne. Lamp, Marset.

## THE LAYOUT


Atelier
Office
*First floor*
Bath
Bed
Bar
Gym
Garage
Laundry
Kitchen
Dining
Living
Pool
Entry
Bath
Bath
Bed
Bath
Bed
Bath
Bed
Rumpus
Robe
Bed
*Ground floor*



**POOL PAVILION** Roof in Colorbond® Night Sky, Architectural Cladding Australia. Silvertop ash shiplap cladding, Radial Timber Sales. Burnished concrete chimney, pavers, pool and landscaping, Cahill Building Group. Outdoor furniture, Arch Melbourne. Joinery in Evenex Aspen Elm, Elton Group. Artwork by P Gnana. Landscape design by Plume Studio.

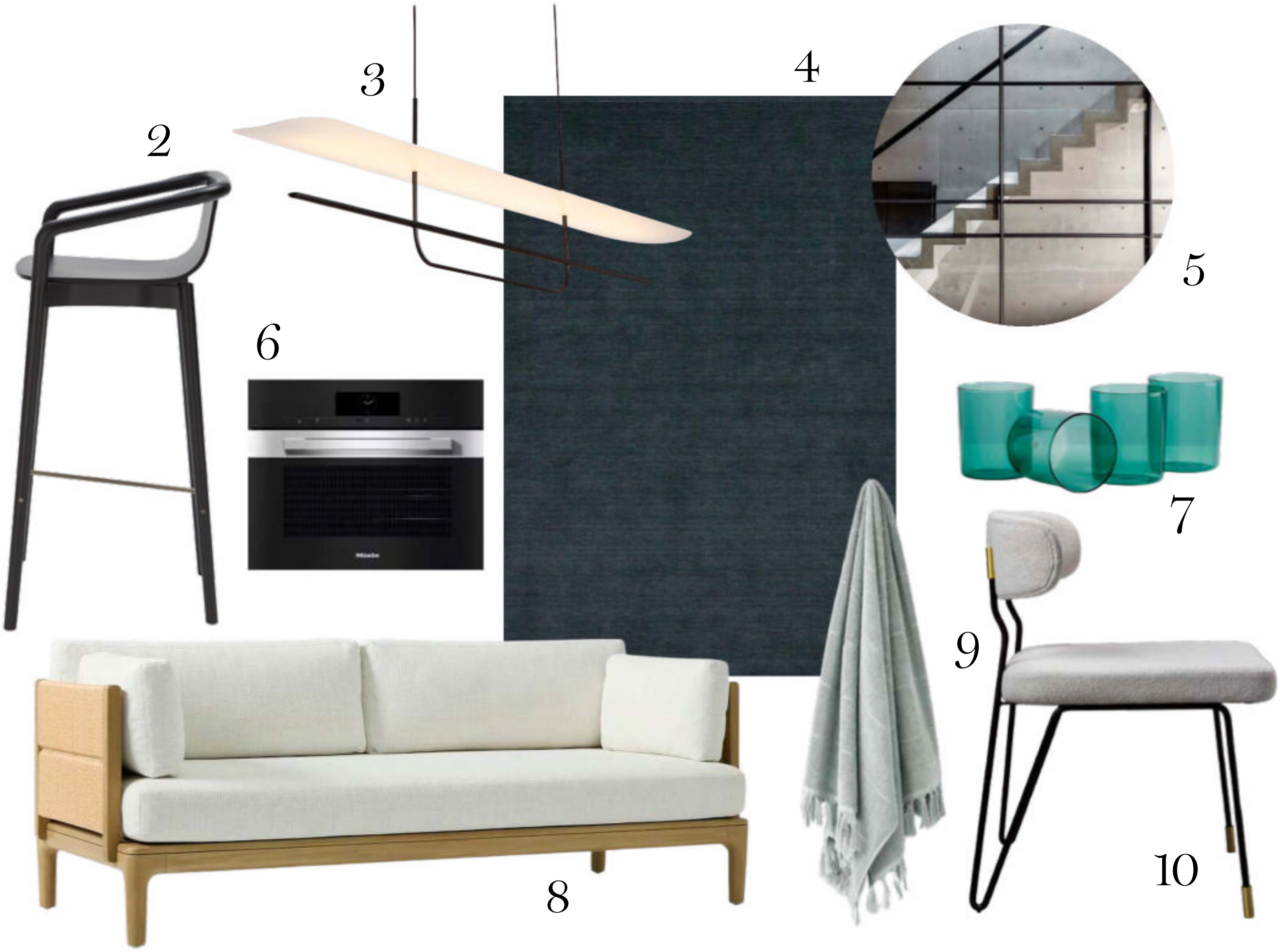


**OFFICE** Walls painted Dulux Domino. Joinery in Polytec Woodmatt Black Ply. Desktop in Laminex Stormcloud. Chair, Mobilia. **MAIN BEDROOM** Joinery in Polytec Woodmatt Black Ply. Lamp and vase, both Domo. Bed linen, Abode Living. 'Overtones' carpet, Bremworth. Artwork by George Raftopoulos, Studio Gallery. **ATELIER** Joinery in Dulux Natural White. **GUEST ENSUITE** Wall tiles, Academy Tiles. Vanity in Bianco Typhoon granite, CDK Stone. Drawers in Fiandre porcelain, Artedomus.

1

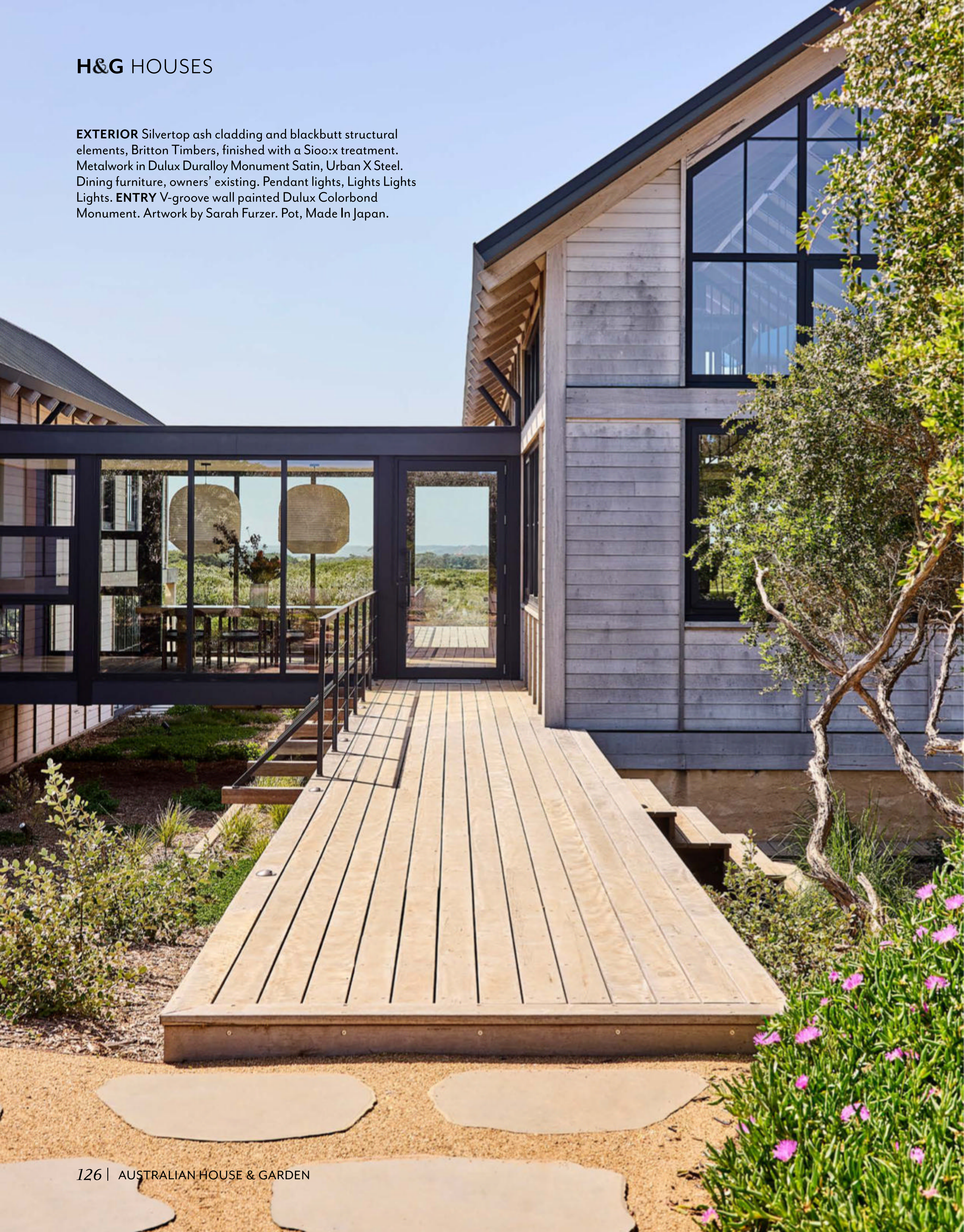
# THE SOURCE

*Reflective surfaces, classic marble and black steel imbue a space with a sense of understated luxury.*



**1** Louise Roe 'Balloon 03' glass vase, $720*, Mytheresa. **2** 'Thomas' **bar stool**, $1910, Space. **3** 'Reflector' linear **pendant light**, $5341, 1stDibs. **4** 'Silvio' **floor rug**, $1399, Freedom. **5** Fixed steel windows, POA, Steel Window Design. **6** Miele DGC 7860 HC Pro PureLine Combi **steam oven** in Clean Steel, $12,499, Harvey Norman. **7** Large **goblets** in Teal, $89/four, Maison Balzac. **8** 'Catalina' **outdoor sofa**, $3999, West Elm. **9** 'Paros' **bath towel** in Limestone, $59.95, Space. **10** Duistt 'Apollo' **chair**, $3950, Becker Minty. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye. *Currency conversion correct at time of going to print.



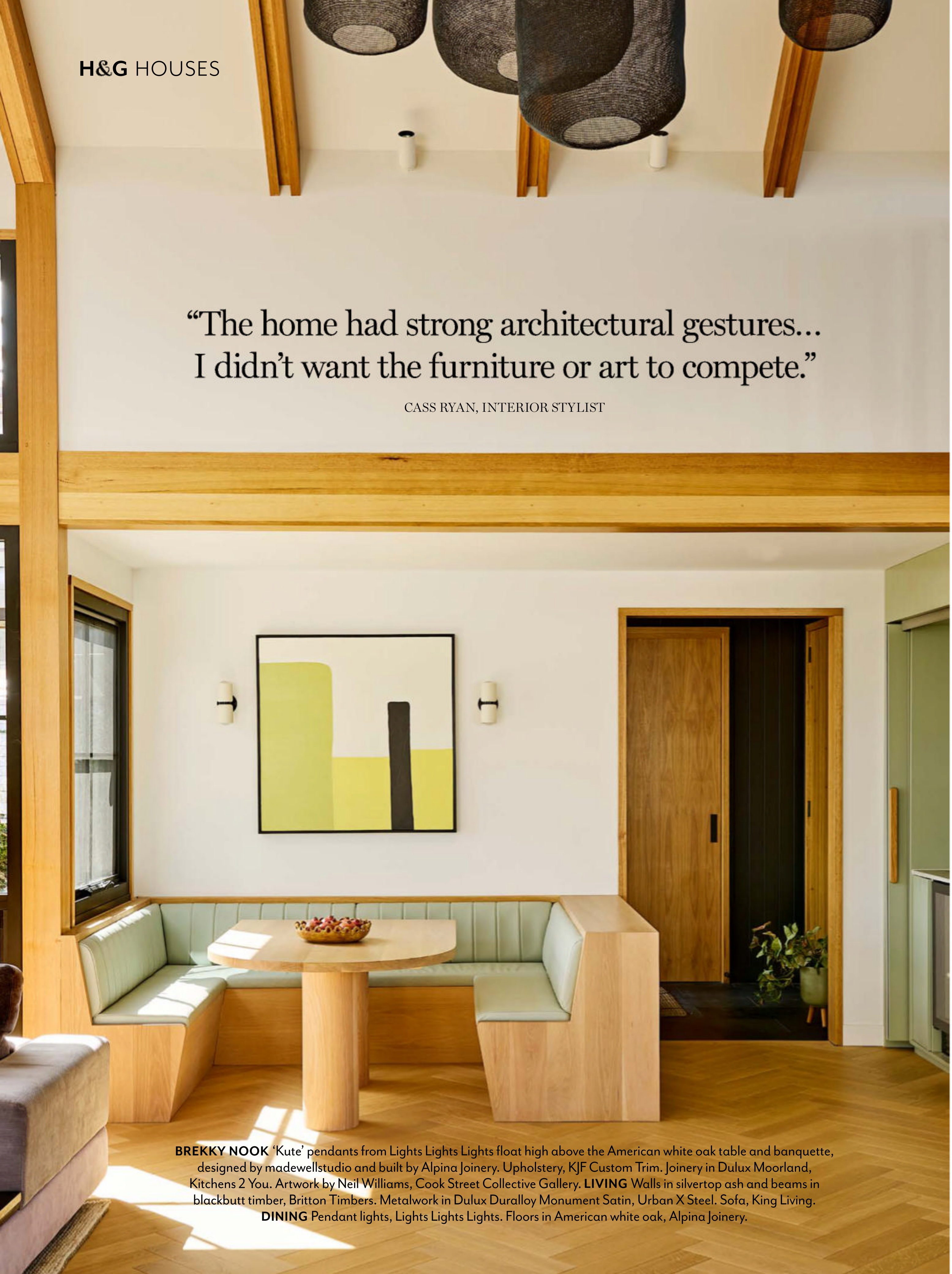
**EXTERIOR** Silvertop ash cladding and blackbutt structural elements, Britton Timbers, finished with a Sioo:x treatment. Metalwork in Dulux Duralloy Monument Satin, Urban X Steel. Dining furniture, owners' existing. Pendant lights, Lights Lights Lights. **ENTRY** V-groove wall painted Dulux Colorbond Monument. Artwork by Sarah Furzer. Pot, Made In Japan.

# BRIDGING THE GAP

An architect pulls off a modern Australian take on Hamptons style with this coastal family home in Victoria.

STORY *Bethan Lacoba* | STYLING *Cass Ryan* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Nikole Ramsay*

KINFOLK WILDERNESS
HOME BY THE SEA
10



> "The home had strong architectural gestures… I didn't want the furniture or art to compete."

CASS RYAN, INTERIOR STYLIST

**BREKKY NOOK** 'Kute' pendants from Lights Lights Lights float high above the American white oak table and banquette, designed by madewellstudio and built by Alpina Joinery. Upholstery, KJF Custom Trim. Joinery in Dulux Moorland, Kitchens 2 You. Artwork by Neil Williams, Cook Street Collective Gallery. **LIVING** Walls in silvertop ash and beams in blackbutt timber, Britton Timbers. Metalwork in Dulux Duralloy Monument Satin, Urban X Steel. Sofa, King Living. **DINING** Pendant lights, Lights Lights Lights. Floors in American white oak, Alpina Joinery.

The rich landscape of this Bellarine Peninsula site in Victoria was what drew the owners to the location of their new family home. A lake and wildlife reserve lie to the north, open coastline to the south, and civilisation is close at hand with the neighbouring golf courses, a beach and a local township nearby.

Mark and Rachel bought the land in 2019 for their family (which includes their three teenaged children and Bailey the Australian Shepherd), then contracted madewellstudio to design their dream home.

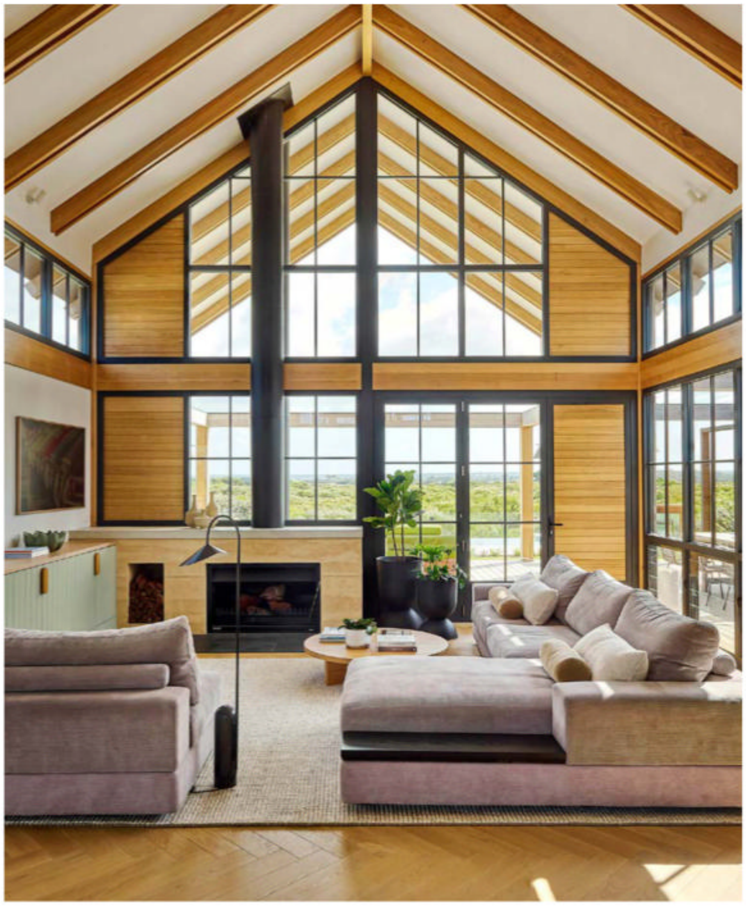
"Mark wanted a modern home. Rachel, who's originally from England, was drawn to more traditional forms, particularly North American architecture," says Campbell Doughty, principal at madewellstudio. He'd spent six years working in New York, often on New England-style homes – what we refer to as Hamptons style – which appealed to the couple. But they wanted more than just a 'copy-paste Hamptons look with a few modern features'.

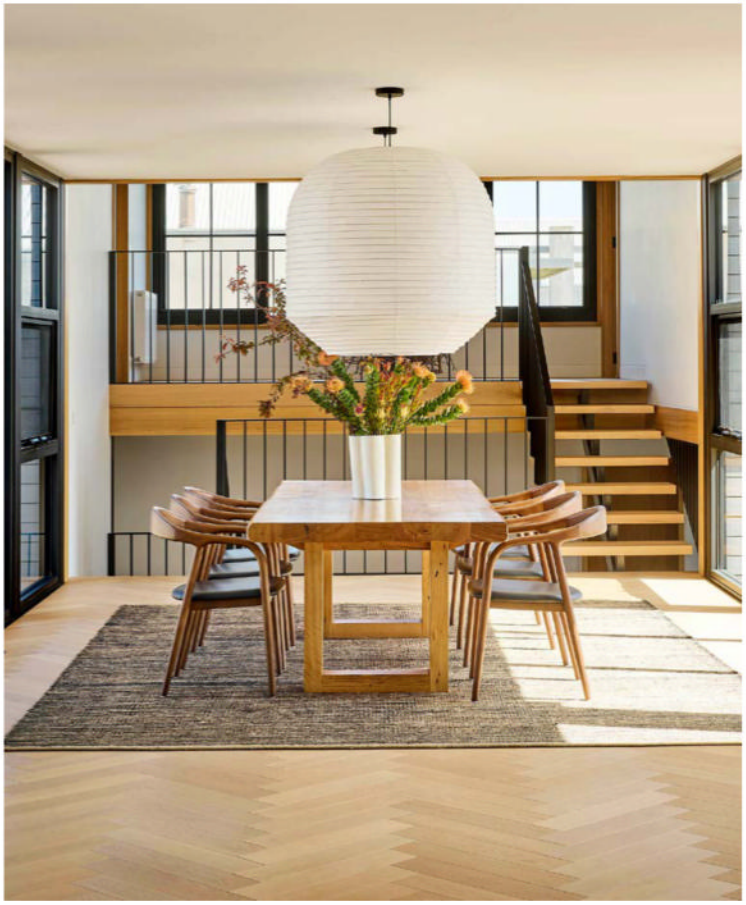
Campbell set to work overcoming challenges beyond Mark and Rachel's differing tastes, such as navigating stringent conditions set by local council. But these just added to the character of the final home. "Significant landscape protections played a big role in shaping the layout and positioning of the house," he says. "It was a juggle, but the natural landscape was exactly what drew them to the site."

The resulting clever design comprises two separate wings connected by a 'bridge'. "The home unfolds as a series of volumes, a plan that reads like a small village," Campbell says. "Spaces are positioned to follow the sun, creating a rhythm of light and shade."

The plan is pieced together over split levels and joined by linear elements. The wing to the east hosts communal living zones (indoors and out), plus an office floating on a mezzanine above the kitchen, accessed via stairs integrated into the joinery. The dining passageway connects to the more private dwelling to the west, where bedrooms, kids' studies and bathrooms, and a private parents' retreat lie. Each room enjoys views over the landscape or to other parts of the house, welcoming in natural light.

Deciding against an all-white Hamptons palette, Campbell opted for a scheme that felt "grounded in its coastal context". He says, "We softened modern forms with traditional textures to retain that homely quality, but with a durable, contemporary edge." ▶





> “In winter we watch the sun set over the tea trees, in summer we watch the sun set over the dunes.”
>
> MARK, OWNER

Silvertop ash completely wraps the exterior, with blackbutt and black steel accents. Considering the site is open to the elements, Campbell ensured that the cladding was weather-proof, specifying a wood protection treatment from Swedish company Sioo:x. The result is a beautiful silvery finish blending harmoniously with the landscape.

The interior details include custom vent grilles integrated into the joinery, earth-friendly concrete benchtops and a handcrafted basin. Timber adds warmth, with blackbutt beams punctuating high pitched ceilings, and linear black steel window frames and balustrades adding visual depth.

While the architecture is sublime, the thought of furnishing their new home was an overwhelming one, so the owners hired interior stylist Cass Ryan of CMR Studio. "My role was to breathe life into their home by incorporating existing furniture, new pieces, and adding those touches that make a house feel lived-in and layered," she says.

Cass sourced ceramics to accent the plentiful joinery and art to enhance spaces. "The artwork was selected to complement, not dominate – pieces that added depth without shouting," she says.

She focused on creating a timeless scheme with a sense of quiet sophistication and an emphasis on warmth by incorporating soft linen, raw timbers and handmade touches. "I leaned into earthy tones, textured materials and natural finishes that echoed the home's architecture and landscape." ▶

**POOL AREA** A pool by Serenity Pools looks out to the north and over native flora. Surfside Landscaping took care of the exterior spaces, with softscaping by Alinga Landscape Design. 'Palissade' sun lounge, Hay. Towel, Københ.

**ENSUITE** Basin and benchtop, Concrete Republic. 'Yokato' tapware, Brodware. **MAIN BEDROOM** Walls and joinery painted Dulux Lexicon Half, Alpina Joinery and Kitchens 2 You. Bed linen, Cultiver. Throw, In Bed. Chairs and side table, owners' existing. *Opposite* Ceramic piece by Alison Frith. New Works 'Kizu' portable table lamp, Designstuff. **SHELVES** Joinery, Alpina Joinery. Artwork by Michael Owen. Ceramic vase by Alice Bell. Tray, Pépite.

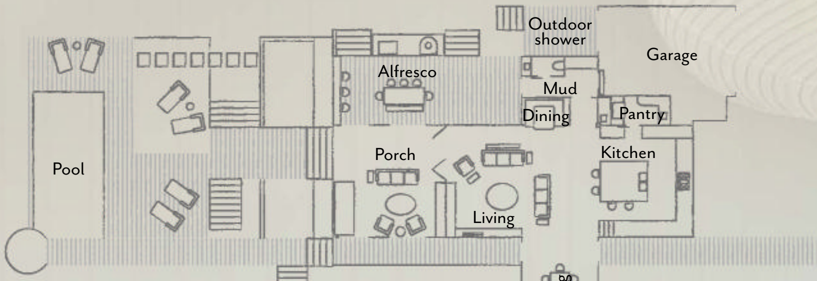
"The primary bedroom was a big focus," she adds. "I wanted to shape it into a true retreat, a place of calm and comfort." The stylist has excelled with this task, as the couple relish their parents' sanctuary. Mark shares, "From our bedroom, we can go to bed with the moon rising from the east and wake to the moon setting, with the sun rising from the east."

Cass also considered flow and function in the furniture layout and durable finishes, suitable for a busy family. "I selected materials that could stand up to daily life while maintaining a refined aesthetic, ensuring each space worked practically and visually."

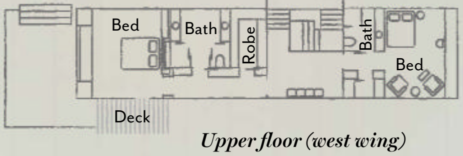
The finished home is grand in scale yet has a calm, non-pretentious confidence. "It resolves two very different visions: Rachel's warmth and tradition, and Mark's interest in modern form and materials," says Campbell. "It really does 'bridge' that gap." ▶

***madewellstudio:** @madewellstudio.*
***CMR Studio:** cmrstudio.com.au.*
***Paral Constructions:** @paral_constructions.*

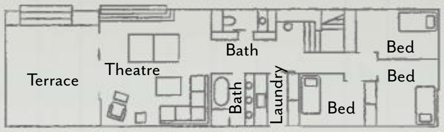
## THE LAYOUT


Outdoor shower
Garage
Alfresco
Mud
Dining
Pantry
Porch
Kitchen
Pool
Living
Dining

*Ground floor*


Bed
Bath
Robe
Bath
Bed
Deck

*Upper floor (west wing)*


Bath
Bed
Terrace
Theatre
Bed
Bath
Laundry
Bed

*Lower floor (west wing)*

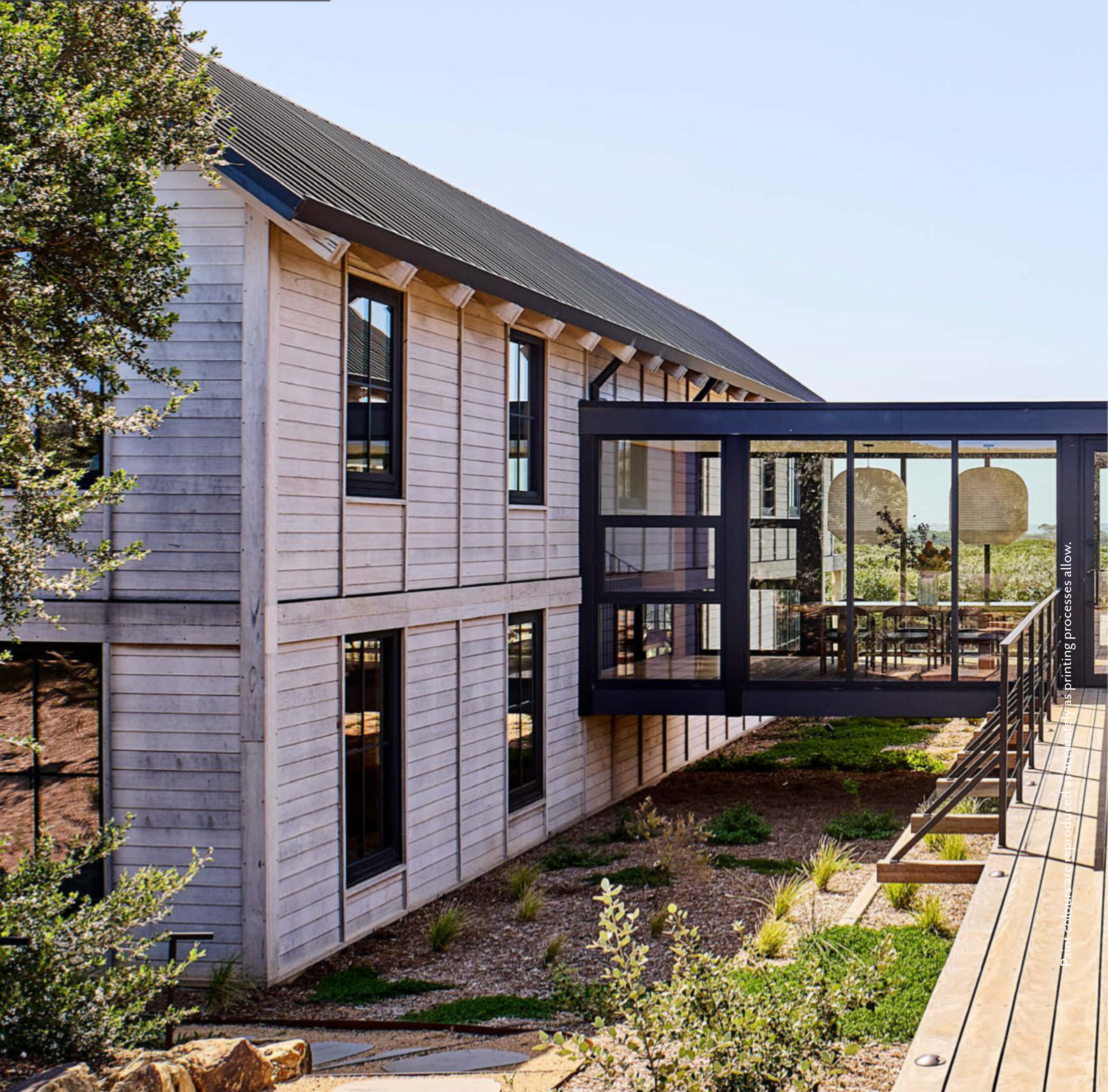
## THE PALETTE

Dulux Lexicon Half
(interiors)

Dulux Moorland
(kitchen and bathroom joinery)

Dulux Colorbond® Monument
(windows, doors and beams)

**EXTERIOR** A connecting 'bridge' joins the two wings, allowing the home to sit lightly on the landscape. Generous eaves protect the home, while still allowing natural light to filter in. Exterior in silvertop ash and blackbutt timbers, Britton Timbers, treated with Sioo:x. Metalwork, Urban X Steel. Landscaping by Surfside Landscaping. Softscaping by Alinga Landscape Design.

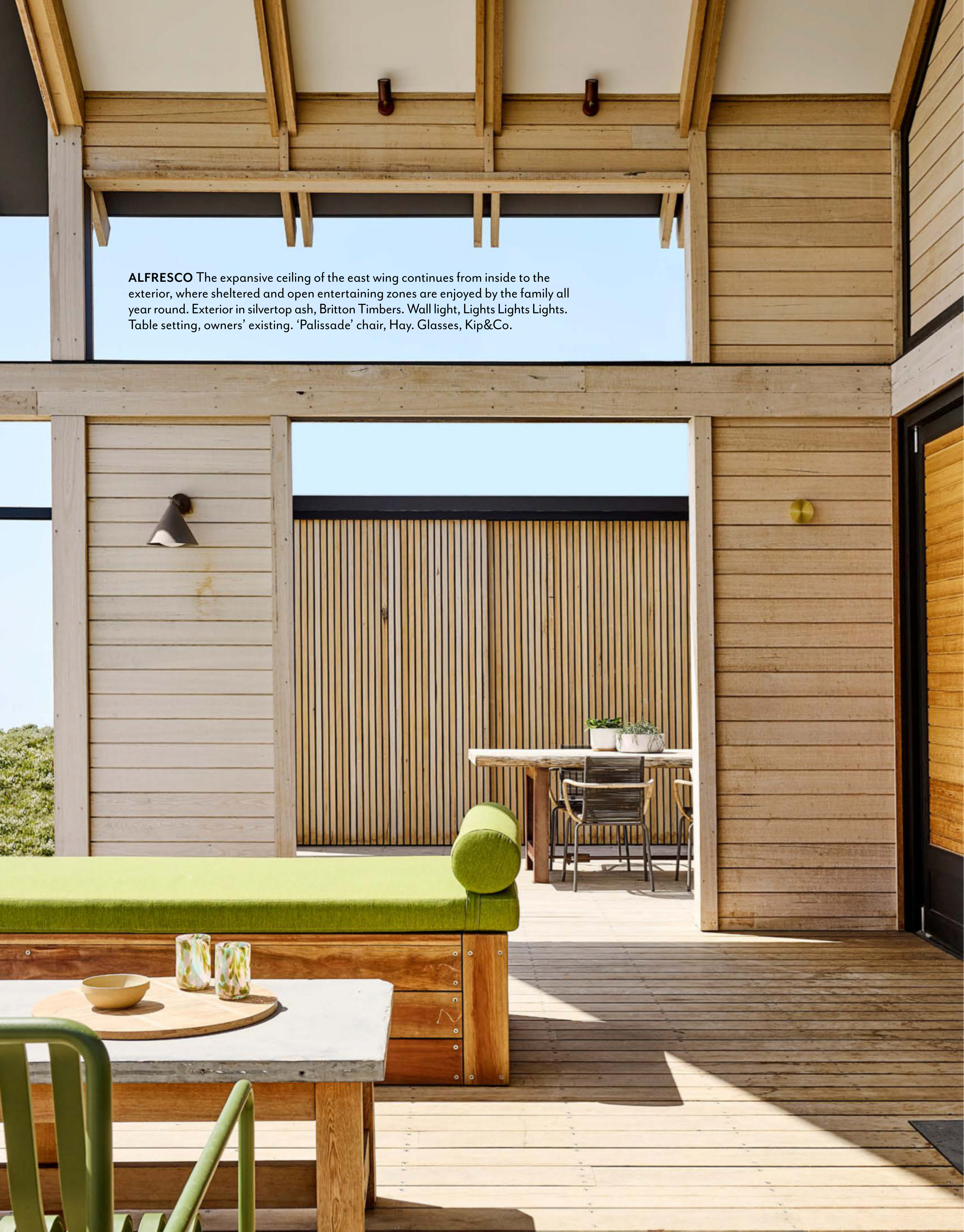


Print colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

## THIS IS THE LIFE

"We love how the house has been designed to take in the change of seasons," says owner Mark. "As a family we enjoy the house [and outdoors] as much in summer as we do in winter. In summer we can chill on the sunbeds and make the most of the outdoor pizza oven or, in winter, relax in front of the open fires and enjoy the outside bath and spa in the rain."

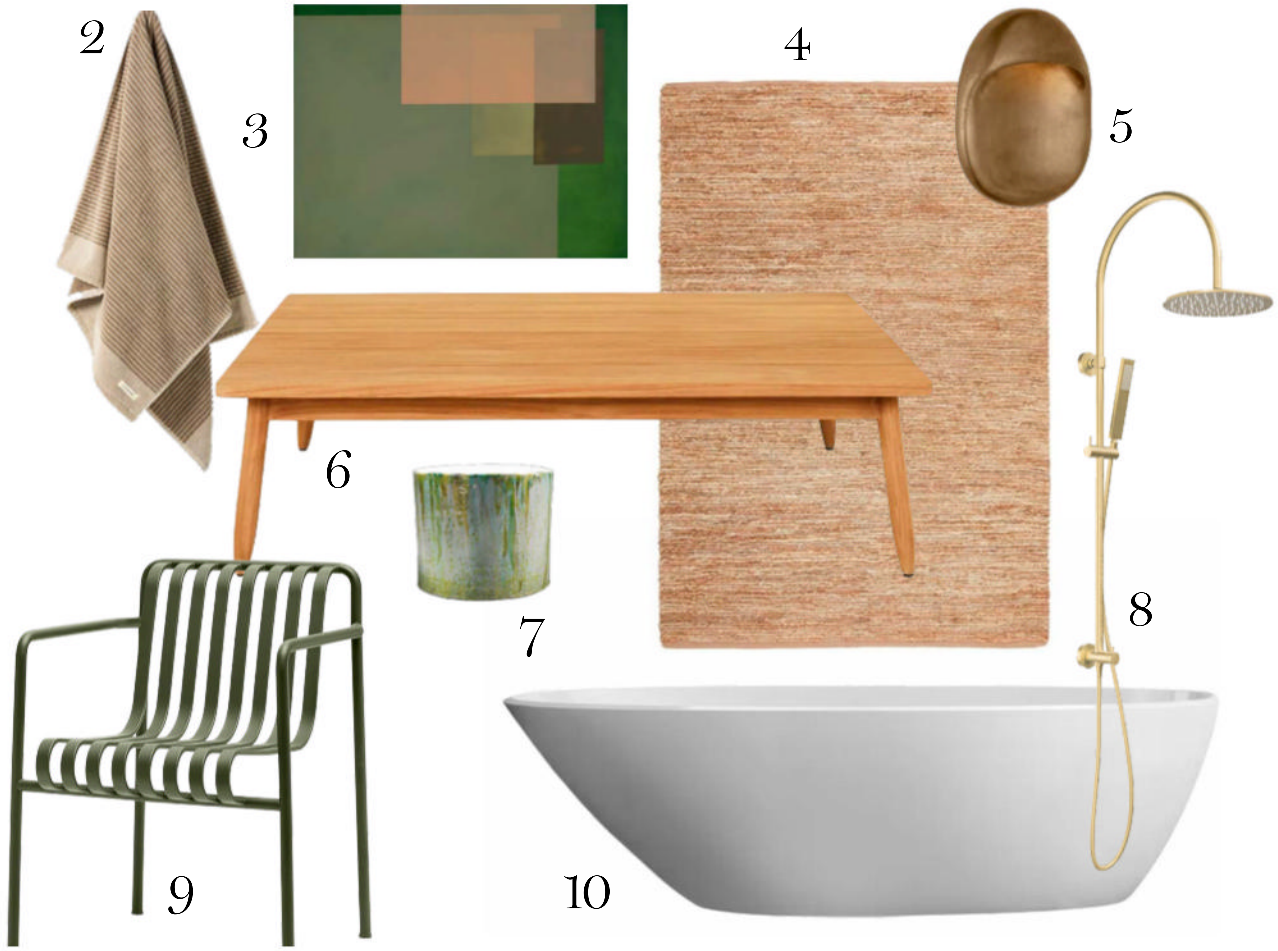
**SPA** The boardwalk, which leads all the way through the entry and out to the 'backyard', lands at a spa by Serenity Pools. **DECK** Rachel and Mark's upstairs retreat in the west wing opens onto an outdoor bath from Concrete Republic, continuing the indoor-outdoor experience of the architecture. Towel, Købn. Stool, Rigby's Homewares.



**ALFRESCO** The expansive ceiling of the east wing continues from inside to the exterior, where sheltered and open entertaining zones are enjoyed by the family all year round. Exterior in silvertop ash, Britton Timbers. Wall light, Lights Lights Lights. Table setting, owners' existing. 'Palissade' chair, Hay. Glasses, Kip&Co.

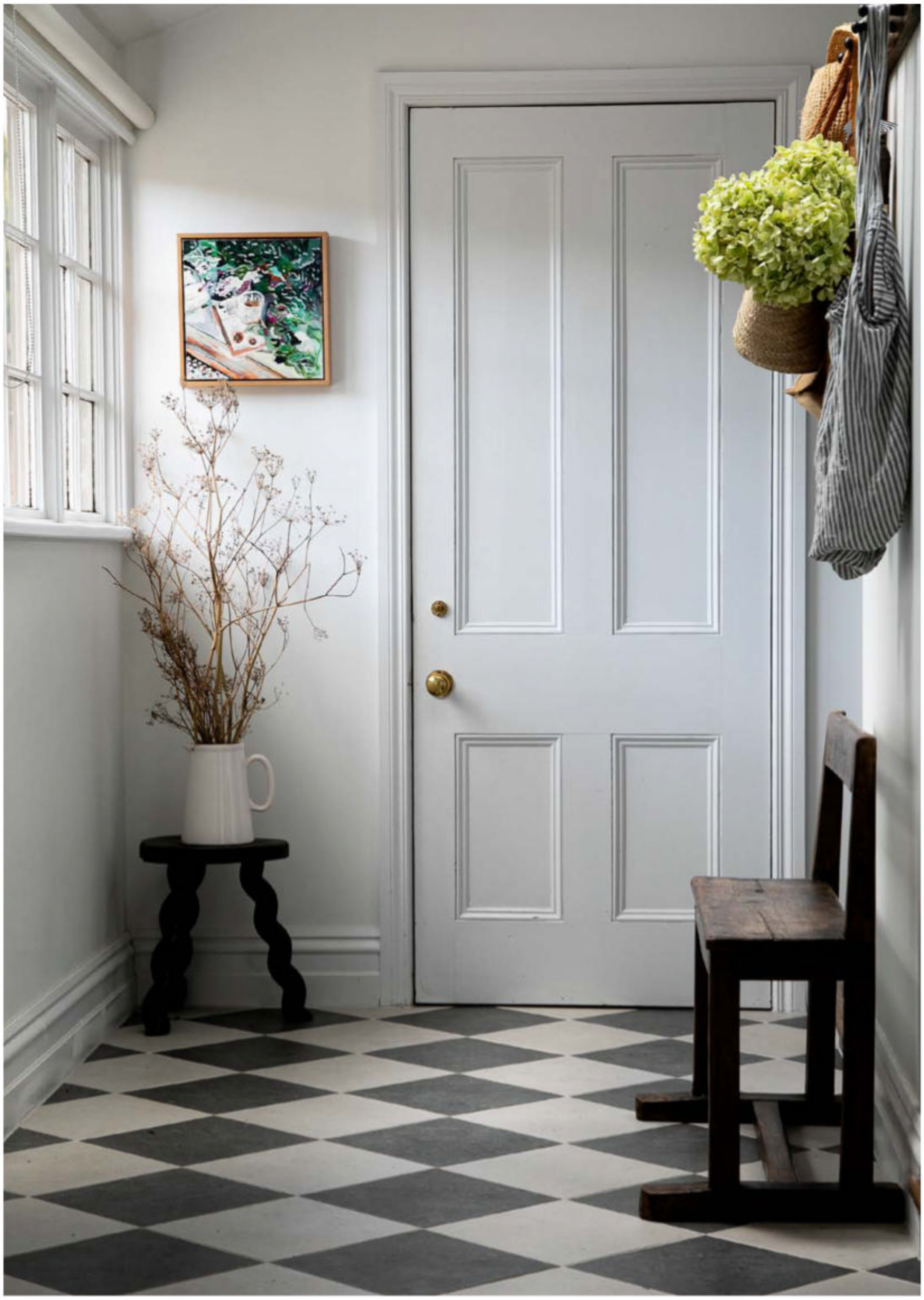
# THE SOURCE

*Relaxed coastal meets modern design with greens, golds and timbers.*



**1** ‘Yamba 1’ **wall light** in Black, $289, Beacon Lighting. **2** ‘Inverloch’ **bath towel** in Mushroom, $49.95, Freedom. **3** *Day Trip to Tallinn* **artwork** by Caroline Collom, $4500, Otomys. **4** ‘Dune Rave’ natural **rug** in Beige, from $389, Myer. **5** Kelly Wearstler ‘Esculpa’ **wall light** in Medium Brass, $3290, The Montauk Lighting Co. **6** Montana ‘Taper’ **outdoor coffee table** in Honey Teak, $3315, GlobeWest. **7** ‘Vessel No. 34’ **ceramic** by Gunilla Maria Åkesson POA, Loewe Foundation. **8** ‘Elysian’ gooseneck **shower rail set** in Tumbled Aged Brass, $954.90, ABI Interiors. **9** ‘Palissade’ **armchair** in Olive, $715, Hay. **10** Victoria+Albert ‘Mozzano’ **bath**, $6310, Harvey Norman. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.



**REAR ENTRY** Walls painted Dulux Lexicon Quarter. Artwork by Alexandra Blunn. 'Lucia Twist' side table, Chelon. Ceramic jug, Coco Blue. Wall hooks stained Feast Watson Black Japan and antique school bench, all The Jardin Room. Striped linen bag, Carlotta + Gee. 'Chess' floor tiles in Black and White, Johnson Tiles. **FACADE** Neat balls of English buxus, lavender and catmint brighten the streetfront. Roof in Colorbond® Shale Grey. Posts, window frames and fence painted Wattyl Grey Ember. Fence pickets painted Dulux Bedbox. Front door painted Porter's Paints Bayleaf. Street number and sandstone balls, The Jardin Room.

# COTTAGE *industry*

A smart makeover equips a Tasmanian sandstone cottage for modern living, while respecting its precious history.

STORY *Chris Pearson* | STYLING *Belle Hemming* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Jessica Bellef*

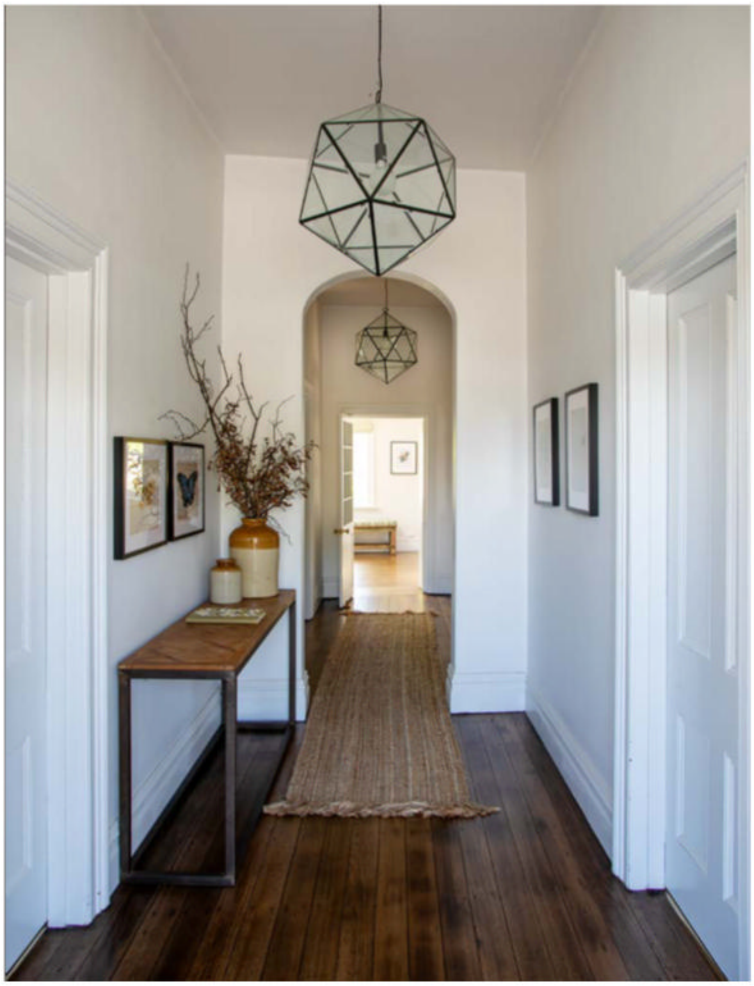
If walls could talk, these sandstone marvels would have fascinating stories to tell. And, as this 1840s cottage in central Tasmania enters an exciting new era, it weaves a fresh narrative, with the signature sandstone remaining a leading character.

Named Raffah House, the three-bedroom property was bought by Sophie and Nick Weeding in 2017. Originally from Victoria, she moved here to be with her husband on his family farm. "When we welcomed our first son in 2017 [the couple now has two children], my parents were visiting and walking down the main street, when they spotted this sandstone beauty for sale. They hinted it could be a wonderful interstate base for my family – and the rest is history," she says.

Seduced by what she saw, Sophie was easily persuaded. "The sandstone fireplaces in all the rooms especially caught my eye." That, along with the fact that the couple discovered the land was originally owned by Nick's direct ancestor, James Weeding, from 1828. "It seemed too serendipitous to pass up such an opportunity to renovate." And there was a lot of work to do – extensions through the '50s and '70s had introduced "lots of linoleum and treated pine not in keeping with the original building".

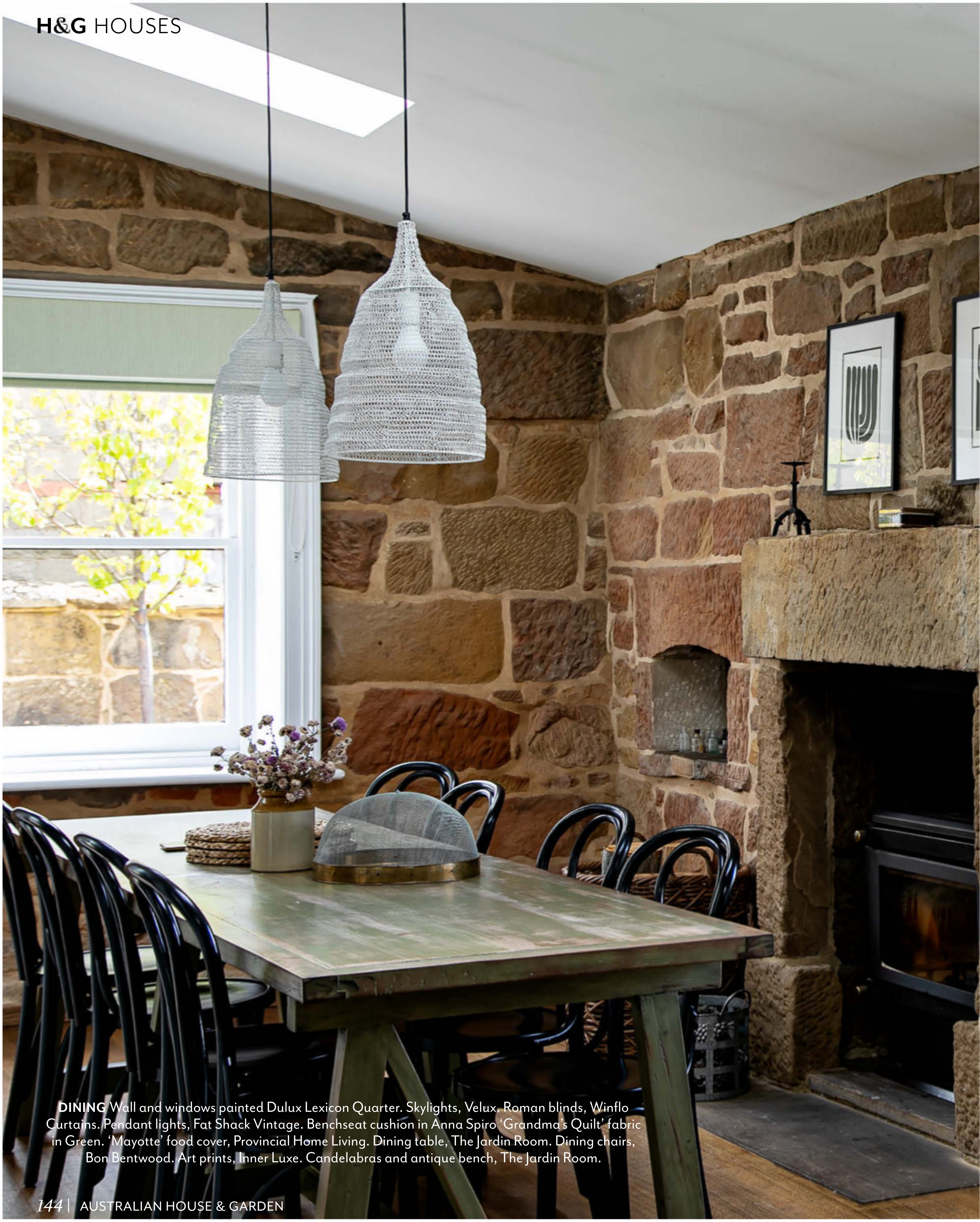
Sophie's brief to herself? "To make it function for growing families, it had to be bulletproof, while maintaining the simple luxuries you seek when on holiday. We wanted visiting family and guests to relax and unwind the moment they walked through the door." To that end, Sophie's comprehensive Pinterest board consisted of exposed timbers, jute, linen, light-filled spaces and "fun patterns" in rugs and cushions. "We wanted to create a home that is classic and warm – to not only look romantically warm from the outside with a puffing chimney, but also to feel warm inside, physically and visually."

First came the inevitable rewiring, repointing and re-piling. Then the couple gutted every room, although the layout required little altering. Three bedrooms flank the hallway, which has a door to shut out noise from the new open-plan living zone that was created by knocking out a wall. And they sacrificed a fourth bedroom for a separate sitting room, accessed through double doors from the kitchen. At the back, a bathroom and laundry remain in their original location, although the couple reconfigured the bathroom with a freestanding bath, walk-in shower and double vanity. ▶



> “We wanted visiting guests to relax and unwind the moment they walked through the door.”
>
> SOPHIE WEEDING, OWNER

**KITCHEN** Kaboodle joinery in Haymes Paint Poplar Grove, Bunnings. Splashback tiles, Rossetto Tiles. Benchtop in Absolute Black granite, Dunn Stone. Fisher & Paykel cooktop and oven, Winnings. Basin, Restoration Online. Tasmanian oak floorboards finished in Whittle Waxes Evolution. **ENTRY** Door painted Porter’s Paints Bayleaf, gate Dulux Bedbox and fence Wattyl Grey Ember. Original floorboards finished in Whittle Waxes Evolution. **HALLWAY** Pendant lights, Temple & Webster. Runner, Zebra Home. Console, The Jardin Room. Framed prints from *John Derian Picture Book*.



**DINING** Wall and windows painted Dulux Lexicon Quarter. Skylights, Velux. Roman blinds, Winflo Curtains. Pendant lights, Fat Shack Vintage. Benchseat cushion in Anna Spiro 'Grandma's Quilt' fabric in Green. 'Mayotte' food cover, Provincial Home Living. Dining table, The Jardin Room. Dining chairs, Bon Bentwood. Art prints, Inner Luxe. Candelabras and antique bench, The Jardin Room.

**THIS IS THE LIFE**
This versatile cottage is designed as a place to come together or for a little me-time. “The dining table is heavily used for long evenings by the fire over drinks and dinner where the conversations don’t stop flowing until the early hours,” says Sophie. “The kitchen hums with conversation, while the separate sitting room works perfectly for those relaxing or planning daytrip itineraries.”

> “What was once a rabbit warren of rooms and darkness is now a light-filled retreat.”
>
> SOPHIE WEEDING, OWNER

### THE PALETTE

Haymes Paint Black Olive
(twin bedroom)

Porter’s Paints Bayleaf
(front door)

Haymes Paint Poplar Grove
(kitchen joinery)

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

**SITTING ROOM** Pendant light, Society Inc. Gas heater, Rinnai. Coffee table, foot stool and sideboard, all The Jardin Room. IKEA sofa in Bemz 'Simply Linen' in Rosemary. Framed prints from *John Derian Picture Book*. Rug, Indigo Love. **BEDROOM** Walls painted Haymes Paint Black Olive. Lamp, GlobeWest. Side table, Ivory House. **BATHROOM** Bath, Reece. Tapware, Meir. Vintage stool, Coco Blue. Tiles, Beaumont Tiles. Antique artwork.

Three skylights in the kitchen and dining, another in the bathroom and one on the back porch ensure the interior is bathed in natural light.

Not surprisingly, the stone's the star, but sometimes you can have too much of a good thing. "Every wall in the kitchen and dining area was sandstone, but this felt overwhelming and cave-like," says Sophie. So a stonemason re-pointed the walls to preserve them and then the couple clad them in plasterboard, leaving one as a feature wall and focal point.

Joinery, artwork and the furnishings complement the stonework in each room and soften the spaces. Finishes include Tasmanian oak floorboards in the open plan, original timber floors in the hallway and matt-black granite tops, together with subway tiles in the kitchen, bath and laundry.

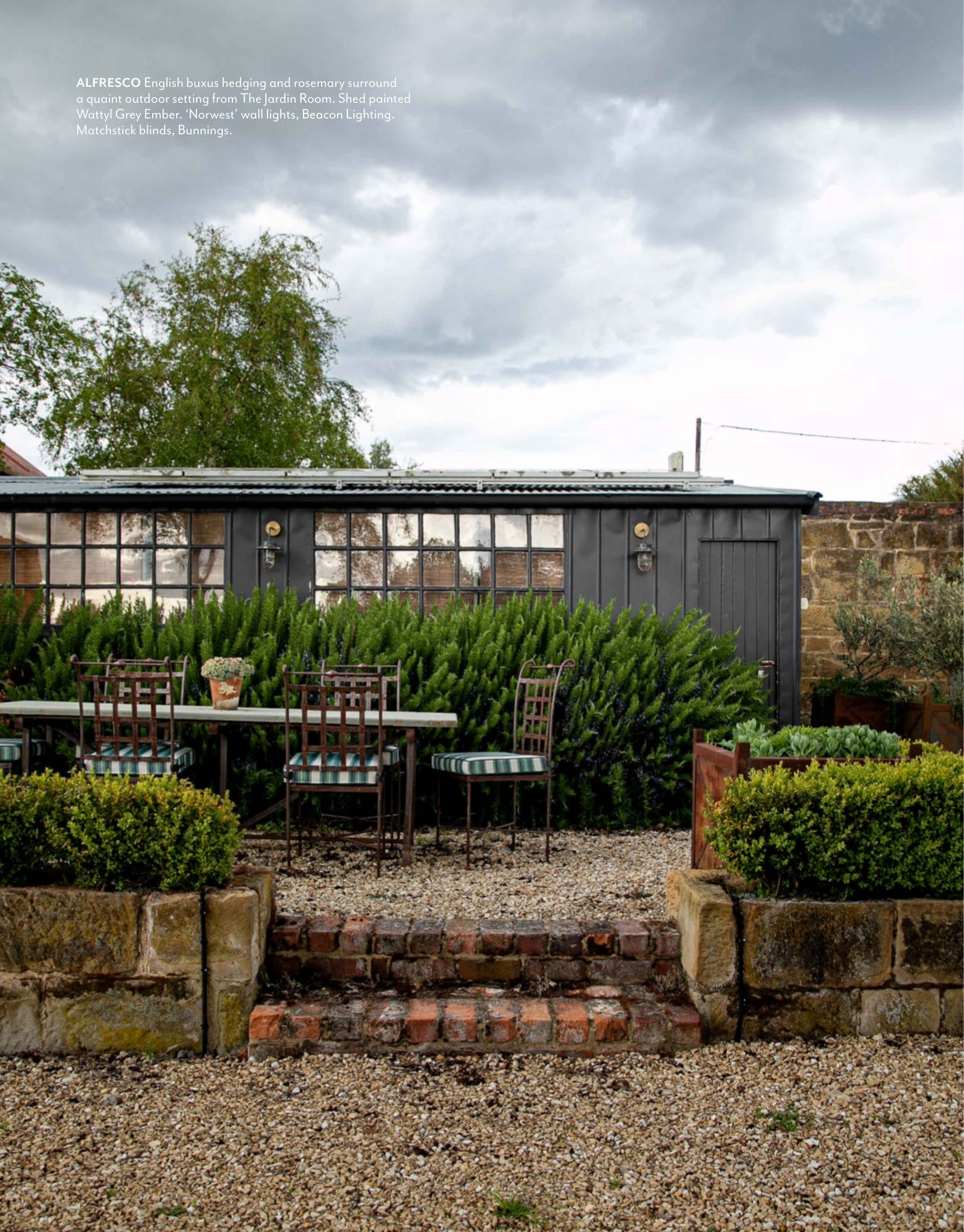
Sophie enlisted the help of "colour queen", interior stylist and decorator Belle Hemming of Belle Bright Project "to add depth" to the bedrooms and bathroom. "The beautiful green in the bathroom is so enticing and the dark bedrooms create a warmth that pulls you in," she says. The bedrooms each have a colour or wallpaper theme. Throughout, the home is furnished with found and recycled objects, all given new life. The custom wine rack was crafted from an old railway sleeper the couple found on the farm. Most of the antique furniture throughout was sourced from The Jardin Room antiques (conveniently located across the street) to complement both the home's period character and modern inclusions.

"We don't tire of walking in when friends or family are visiting and seeing the joy on their faces," says Sophie. "We have created airiness within the cosy and inviting spaces. What was once a rabbit warren of rooms and darkness is now a light-filled retreat. And, equally importantly, it respects the property's long and wonderful history." ▶

***Raffah House:** raffahhouse.com.au.*

***Belle Bright Project:** thebellebrightproject.com.au.*

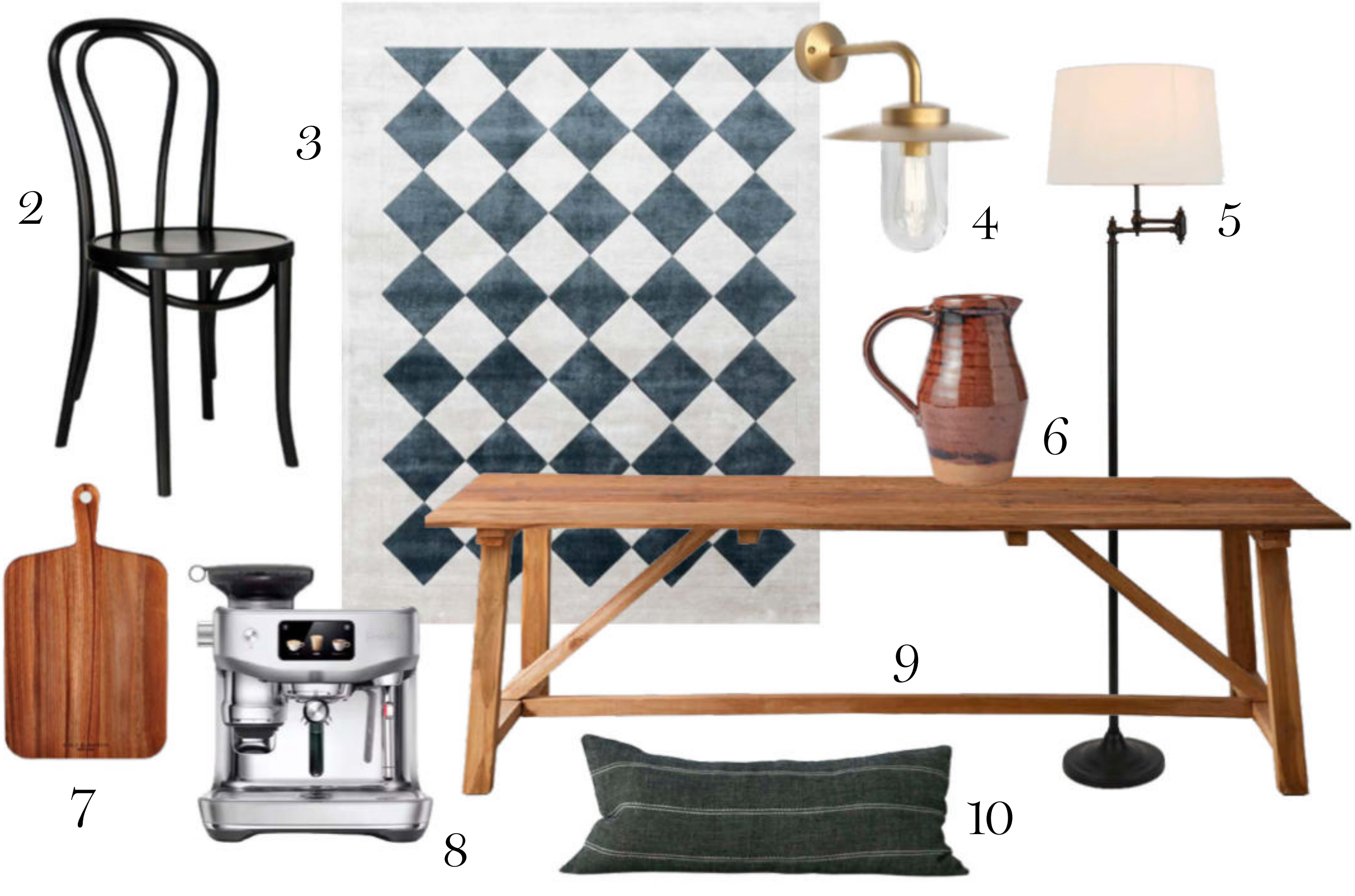
**BACKYARD** Exterior painted Wattyl Grey Ember. Window painted Dulux Bedbox. Roof in Colorbond® Shale Grey. **BACK ENTRY** Exterior painted Wattyl Grey Ember. Window painted Dulux Bedbox. Walls painted Dulux Lexicon Quarter. 'Norwest' wall sconce, Beacon Lighting. Wall hooks stained Feast Watson Black Japan and antique school bench, all The Jardin Room. Linen bag, Carlotta + Gee. 'Chess' checkerboard floor tiles, Johnson Tiles.



**ALFRESCO** English buxus hedging and rosemary surround a quaint outdoor setting from The Jardin Room. Shed painted Wattyl Grey Ember. 'Norwest' wall lights, Beacon Lighting. Matchstick blinds, Bunnings.

# THE SOURCE

*Add depth and personality by layering traditional homewares in brass notes, deep tones and reclaimed timbers.*



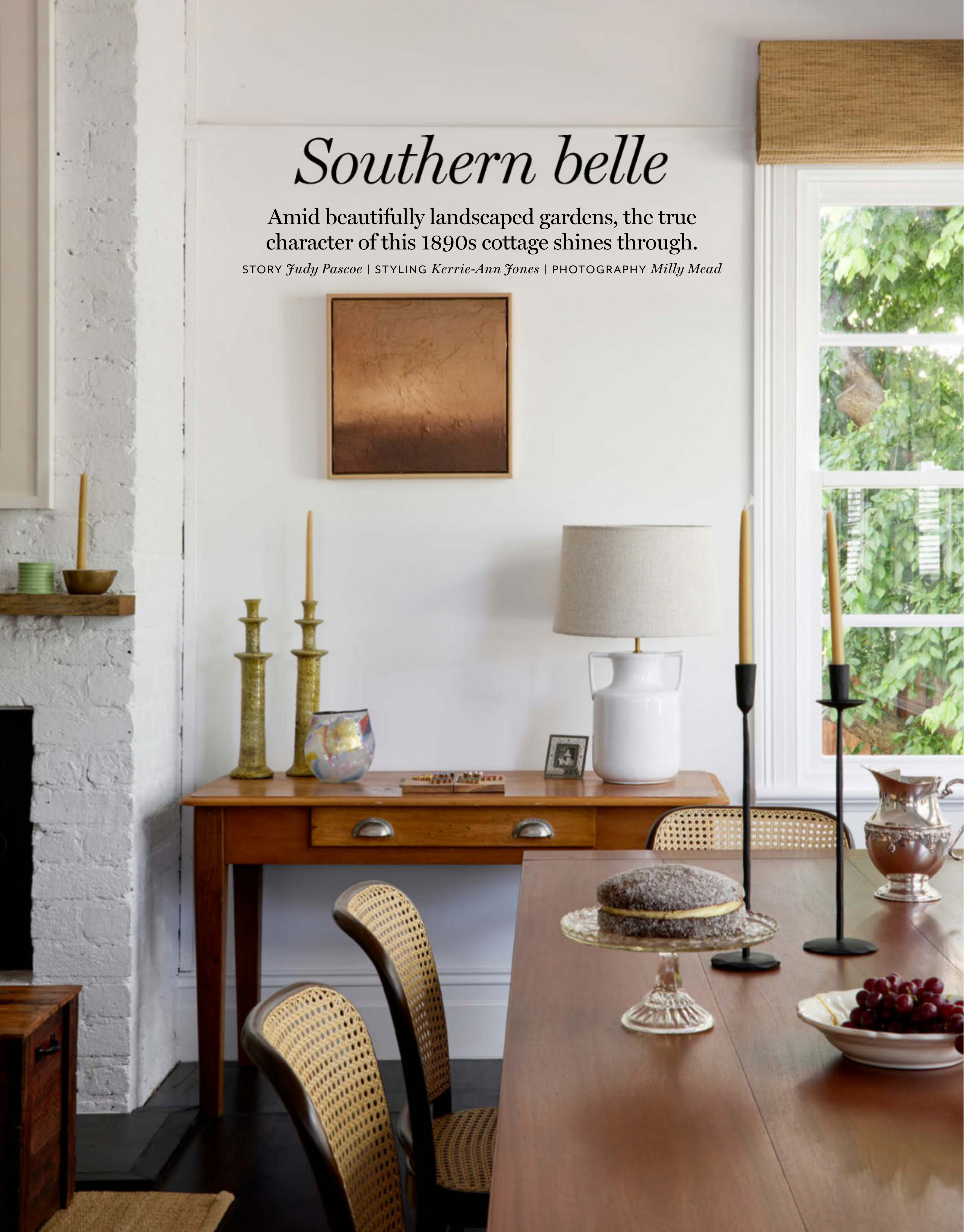
**1** 'Dimity' three-arm **candelabra** in Black, $69.95, Alfresco Emporium. **2** Bentwood **side chair**, $540, Mark Tuckey. **3** 'Draper' **rug** in Black (300x240cm), $3480, Hali. **4** 'Portree' **wall light,** $1099, Nook Collections. **5** 'Macleay' **floor lamp** in Matte Black, $1306.80, House of Isabella. **6** Jack Welbourne 'Tenmoku' **jug** in Iron, $180, Toast. **7** Cole & Mason 'Bark Way' **chopping board** in Brown, $89.95, Myer. **8** Breville 'The Oracle Jet' **coffee machine**, $3299, Harvey Norman. **9** 'Barndo' reclaimed **dining table** (240x100cm), $1099, Early Settler. **10** 'Mira' lumbar **cushion cover** in Rafa, $190, Cultiver. **H&G**

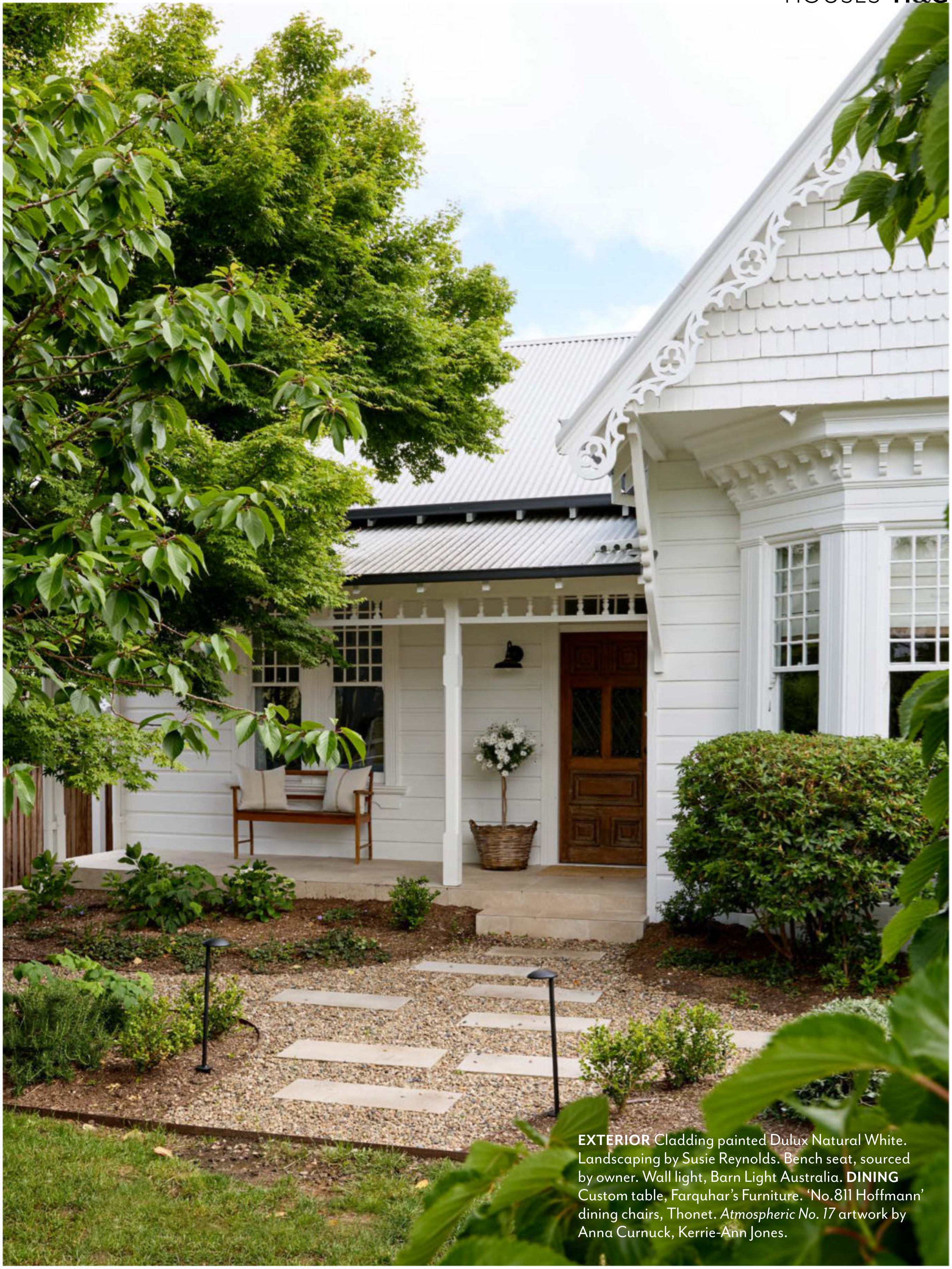
Produced by Marissa Foye.

# *Southern belle*

Amid beautifully landscaped gardens, the true character of this 1890s cottage shines through.

STORY *Judy Pascoe* | STYLING *Kerrie-Ann Jones* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Milly Mead*





**EXTERIOR** Cladding painted Dulux Natural White. Landscaping by Susie Reynolds. Bench seat, sourced by owner. Wall light, Barn Light Australia. **DINING** Custom table, Farquhar's Furniture. 'No.811 Hoffmann' dining chairs, Thonet. *Atmospheric No. 17* artwork by Anna Curnuck, Kerrie-Ann Jones.

This pretty 1890s cottage in the Southern Highlands of NSW is picture-perfect in every way, with its bay window, steeply pitched roof, timber fretwork and original shingles enhanced by beautiful gardens. Set on 1000sqm of land at a high point in the street, it also offered further potential for the downsizing buyers.

While undeniably attractive from the outside, the interior needed some refurbishment and the new owners were keen to maximise the facility of the garden studio by turning it into guest accommodation.

But first they had plans for the garden, envisaging a series of outdoor rooms to provide varied entertaining spaces for different occasions and times of the day. ▶

**KITCHEN** Walls painted Dulux White on White. Existing kitchen joinery. Blinds, Halvorsen Interiors. Antique table and chairs. Vase, Michelle Samaras. **DINING** Custom table, Farquhar's Furniture. 'No.811 Hoffmann' chairs, Thonet. Bowl, Alex and Trahanas.

The couple engaged Susie Reynolds, a landscape designer who works in the area. She in turn recommended interior designer Sally Wilkins to help with the upgrade of the four-bedroom property.

"The project actually began with the design of a new potting shed and the renovation of the garden studio before we moved on to work on the interiors of the main house," says Sally. "Starting this way was helpful to get a sense of my client's style."

Hailing from the US, the owner was well travelled and had been inspired by traditional cottage garden buildings. She and Sally spent a great deal of time poring over images of English and American potting sheds. "As the client's adult children live in the US, she travels there often and brings back fabulous ideas," says Sally.

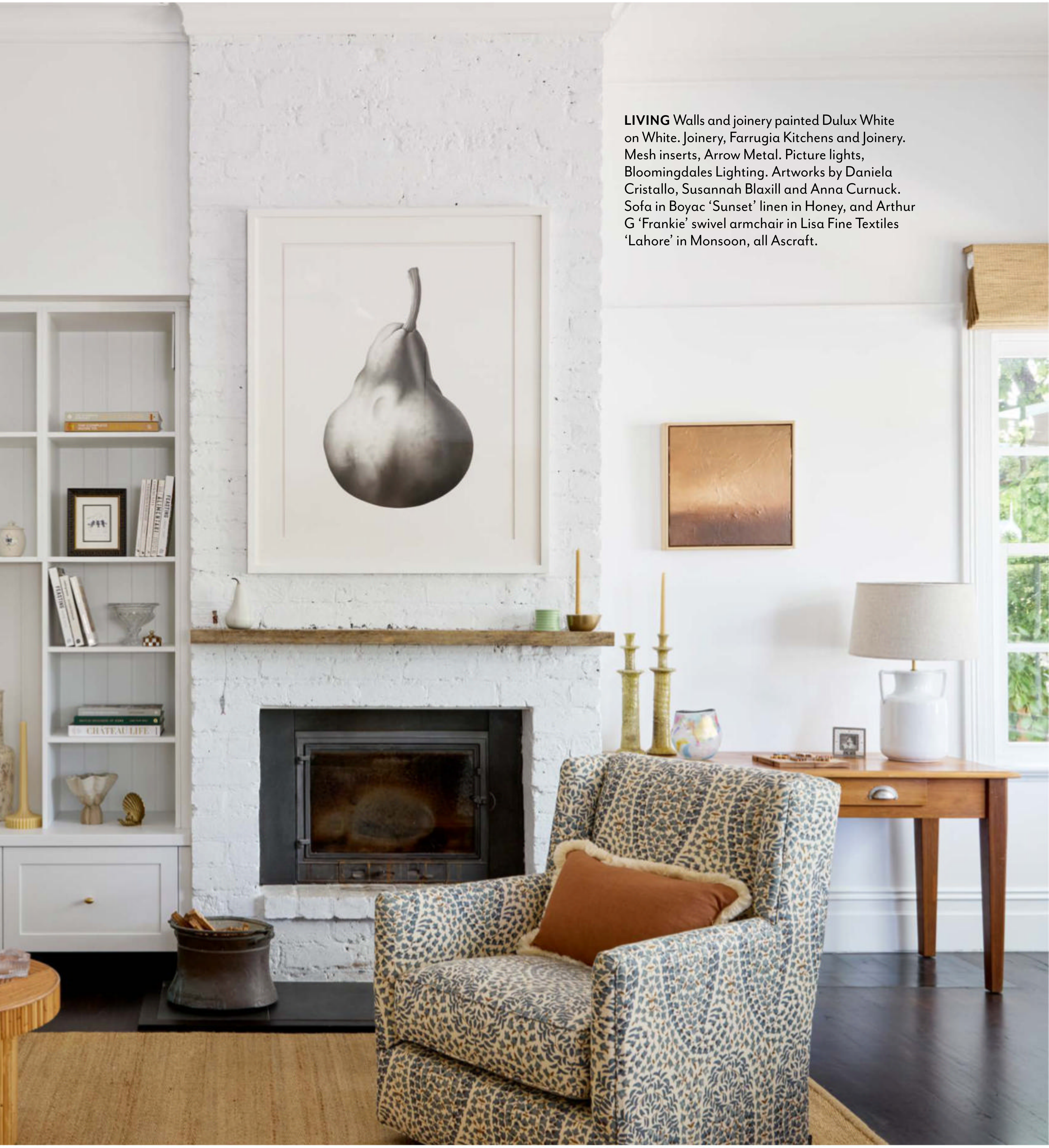
Inspired by the Gothic style of the house, Sally proposed matching the pitch of the original roof in the potting shed and replicating features such as wide weatherboards and timber fretwork. "These architectural techniques served to create a cohesive collection of buildings on the property," she says. The location of the potting shed was also important, and Sally positioned it in a far corner of the block so it became a visual anchor.

Once the potting shed had been built and the studio extended to include a new bathroom and kitchenette, Sally turned her attention to the main house. "There had been a patchwork of renovations over the years and it all needed refining," she says. "The house had beautiful bones but needed to be refreshed in a sympathetic way that synthesised with the original features to make a coherent whole and provide better functionality."

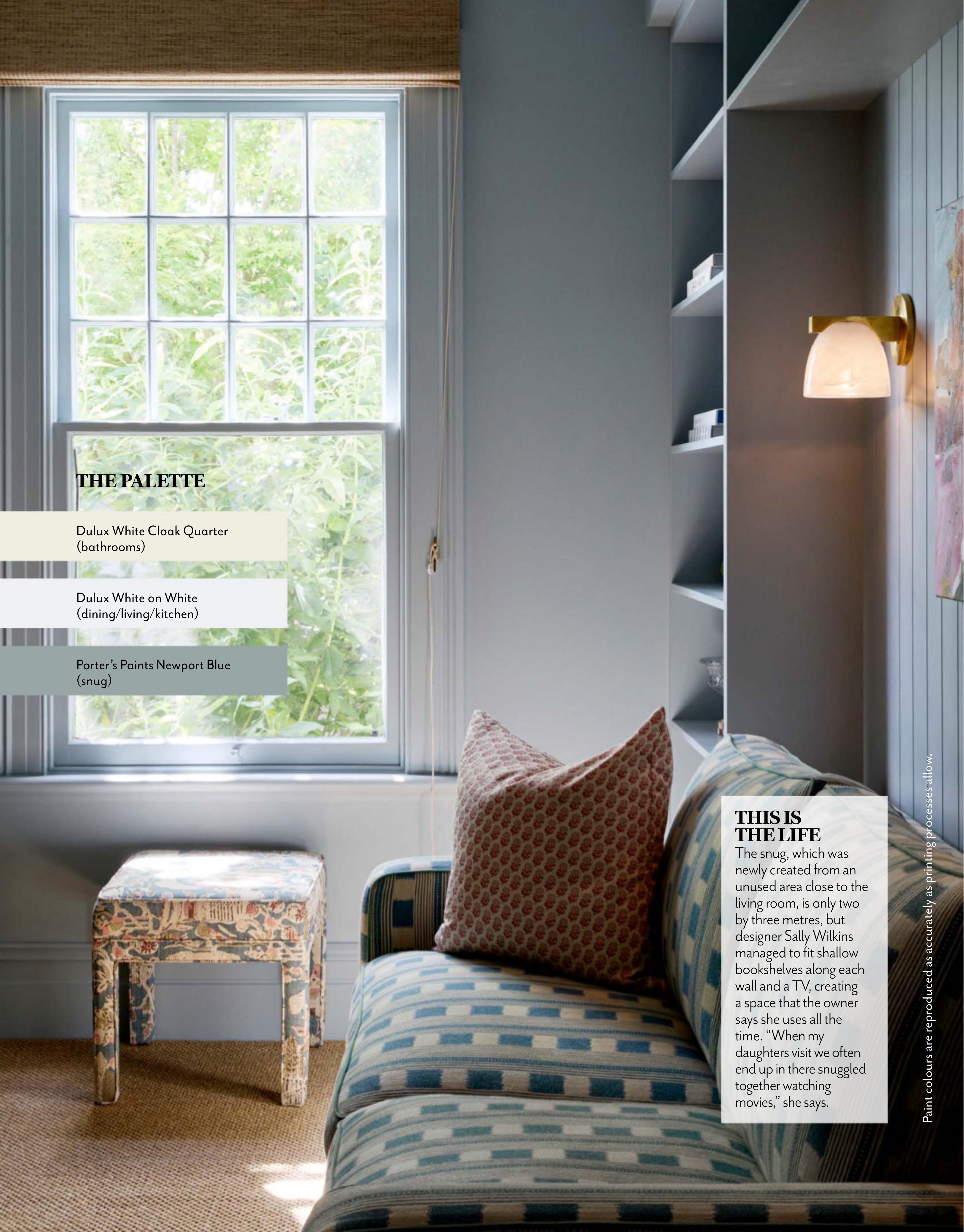
The owner wished to introduce contemporary elements to enhance the traditional details, such as the multi-paned bay windows, fretwork and the three-metre-high ceilings. "She loves the eclectic feel of hand-printed fabrics mixed with time-worn antiques, books, beautiful artworks and handmade ceramics that have a story to them. All together this makes for an interesting, individual and unique space," says Sally.

The home's classic layout of bedrooms and bathrooms opening off a wide central hallway and ending in an open-plan living, dining and kitchen area was retained and the back terrace was enclosed to make it weatherproof.

The kitchen had been renovated previously and the owner wished to keep the navy blue cabinetry. This served as a counterpoint to the fresh white walls and the bespoke joinery that lines the living room. ▶



**LIVING** Walls and joinery painted Dulux White on White. Joinery, Farrugia Kitchens and Joinery. Mesh inserts, Arrow Metal. Picture lights, Bloomingdales Lighting. Artworks by Daniela Cristallo, Susannah Blaxill and Anna Curnuck. Sofa in Boyac 'Sunset' linen in Honey, and Arthur G 'Frankie' swivel armchair in Lisa Fine Textiles 'Lahore' in Monsoon, all Ascraft.



## THE PALETTE

Dulux White Cloak Quarter (bathrooms)

Dulux White on White (dining/living/kitchen)

Porter's Paints Newport Blue (snug)

## THIS IS THE LIFE

The snug, which was newly created from an unused area close to the living room, is only two by three metres, but designer Sally Wilkins managed to fit shallow bookshelves along each wall and a TV, creating a space that the owner says she uses all the time. "When my daughters visit we often end up in there snuggled together watching movies," she says.

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.

Sally then introduced upholstered furniture in ochres and pinky reds in hand-printed patterns with an Indian and Eastern influence. "The patterns are contemporary but decorative and the rich hues work well against the white walls, lending an exotic feel representative of the client's well-travelled life," she explains.

Other design decisions were made according to some serendipitous occurrences. The owner had seen a fabulous wallpaper in a New York restaurant and Sally was able to track it down to use in the powder room, alongside yellow-painted walls that tie in with the upholstery colours elsewhere. "This way we were able to create unity and cohesion in the house," she says.

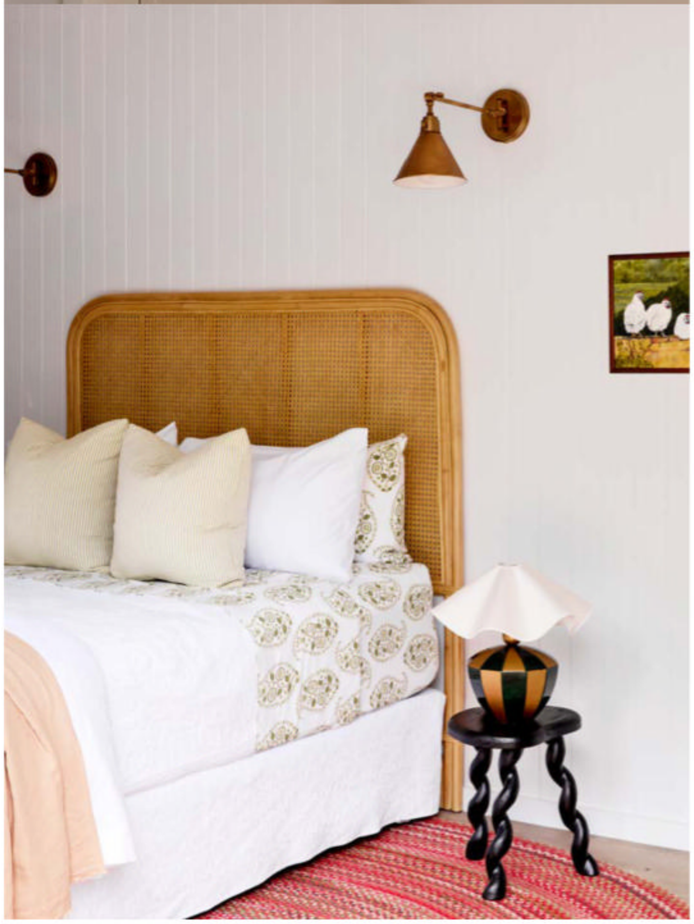
Darker colours were chosen for the 'night-time' rooms such as the snug, a formerly unused space off the living area that was turned into a delightful book-lined retreat and painted Porter's Paints Newport Blue. "The colour enhances the space by making it feel more intimate," says Sally. Warmth was introduced with sisal carpet, natural weave blinds and brass light fixtures "making the space cosy and conducive to relaxation". It's now a favourite space for the owner to read or watch TV.

The bedrooms had already been refreshed with new bedheads and curtains, so Sally worked with the owner to personalise them with her existing antique bedside tables, pretty lamps with scalloped shades from No Chintz and beautiful bed linen bought in New York.

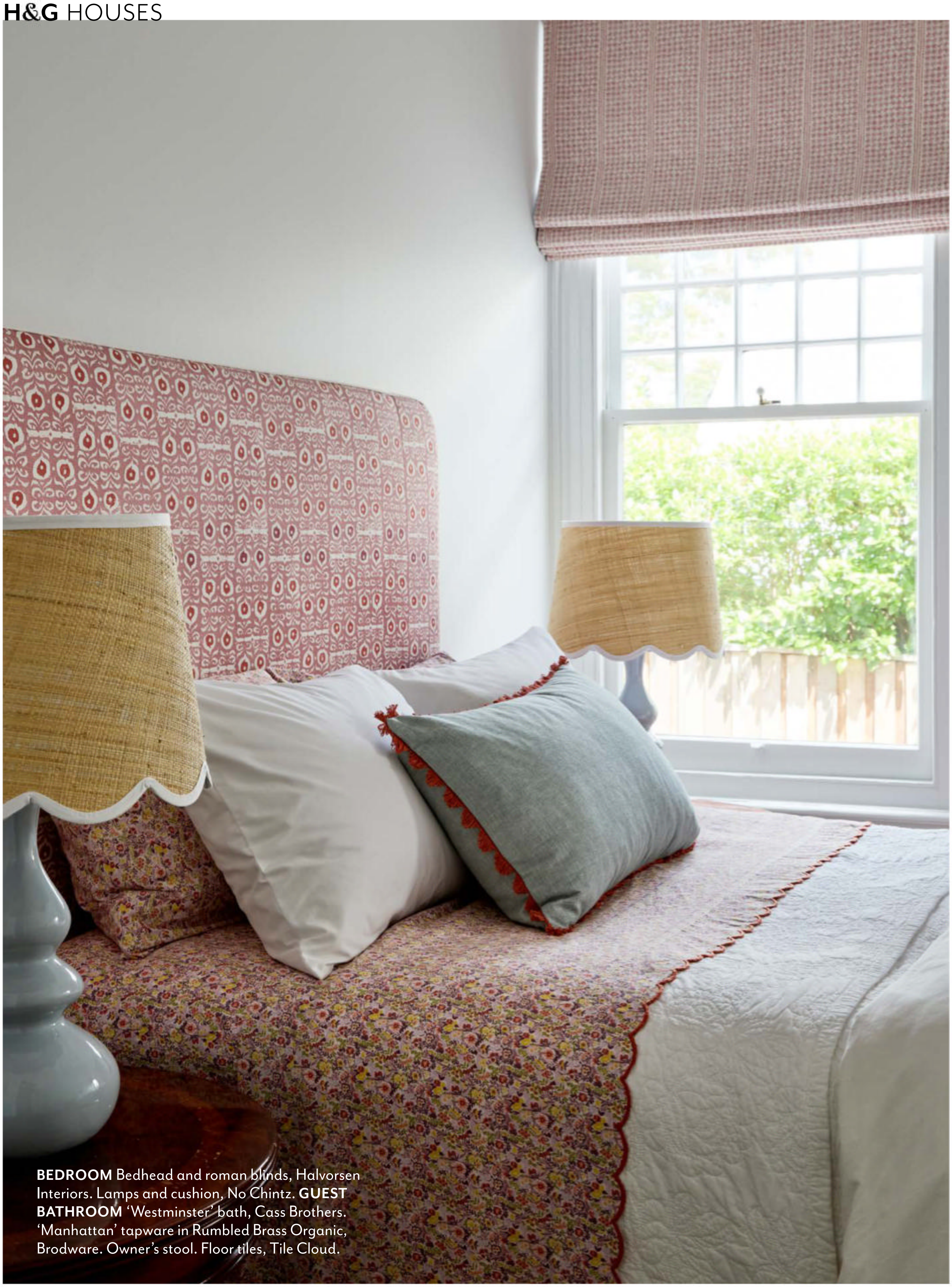
The main bathroom received a complete makeover and is now an elegant space with travertine floors, zellige wall tiles, brass fittings and a vanity with a Calacatta Gold marble benchtop.

The owner loves her updated home and remarks, "It's a space my family can visit and stay, which makes it very special. Everything is so beautiful – I can't believe this is my house." ▶

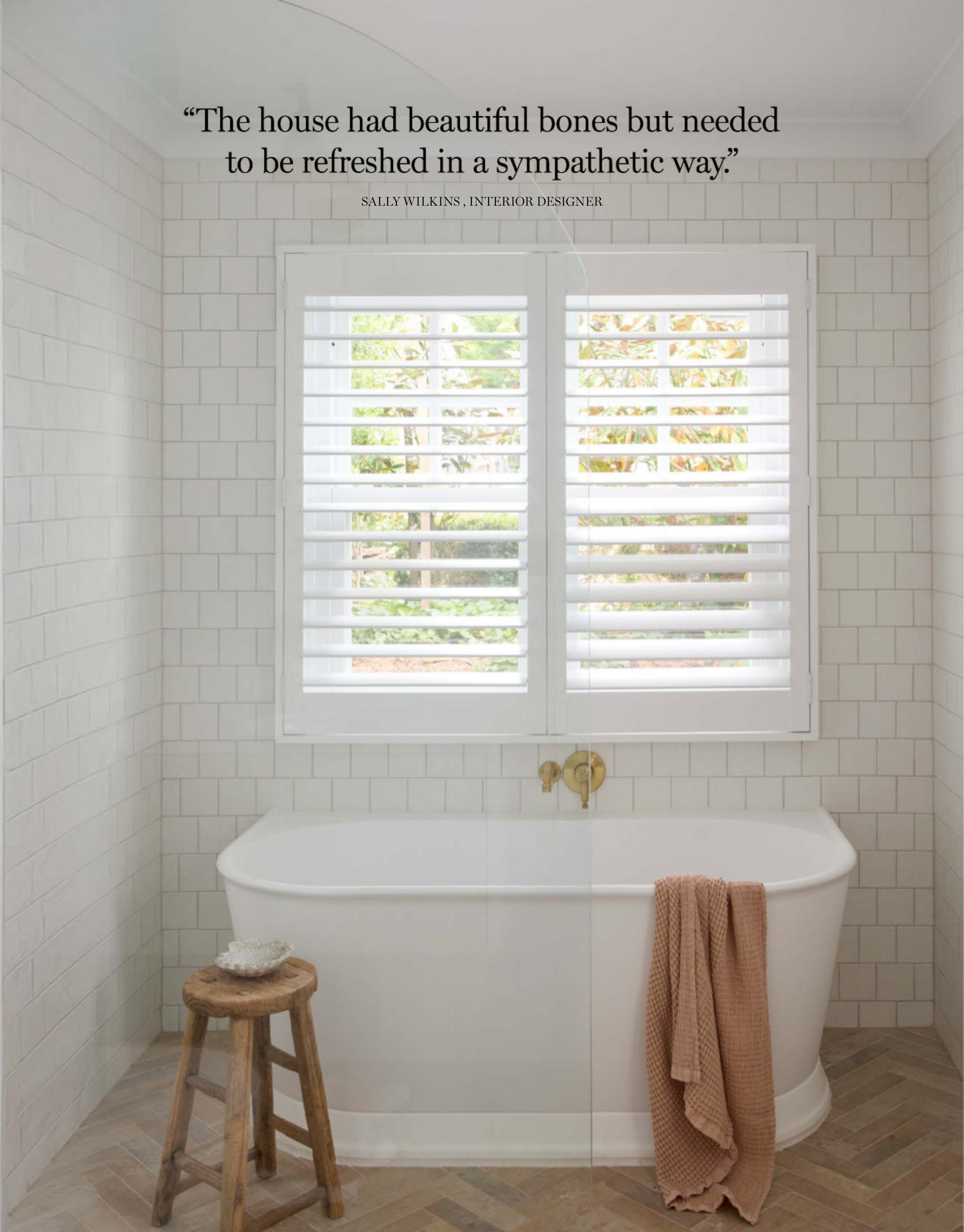
***Sally Wilkins Studio:** sallywilkinsstudio.com.au.*
***Giovenco Projects:** giovencoprojects.com.au.*
***Susie Reynolds:** 0419 221 433.*



**BATHROOM** Wall tiles, Di Lorenzo. Benchtop and splashback in Calacatta Gold marble, SNB Stone. Tapware, Brodware. Basin, Kerasan. Wall sconce, Robert Gordon. **BEDROOM** Stool, Chelon. Lamp, Love After Love. Wall sconces, Hinkley. **SNUG** *Opposite* Sofa in Kit Kemp for Christopher Farr Cloth 'Lost and Found' in Denim, and Arthur G 'Lexi' ottoman in Borderline Fabrics 'Canterbury' in Pale Blue. Aerin Lauder 'Carola' single wall sconce, Bloomingdales Lighting.

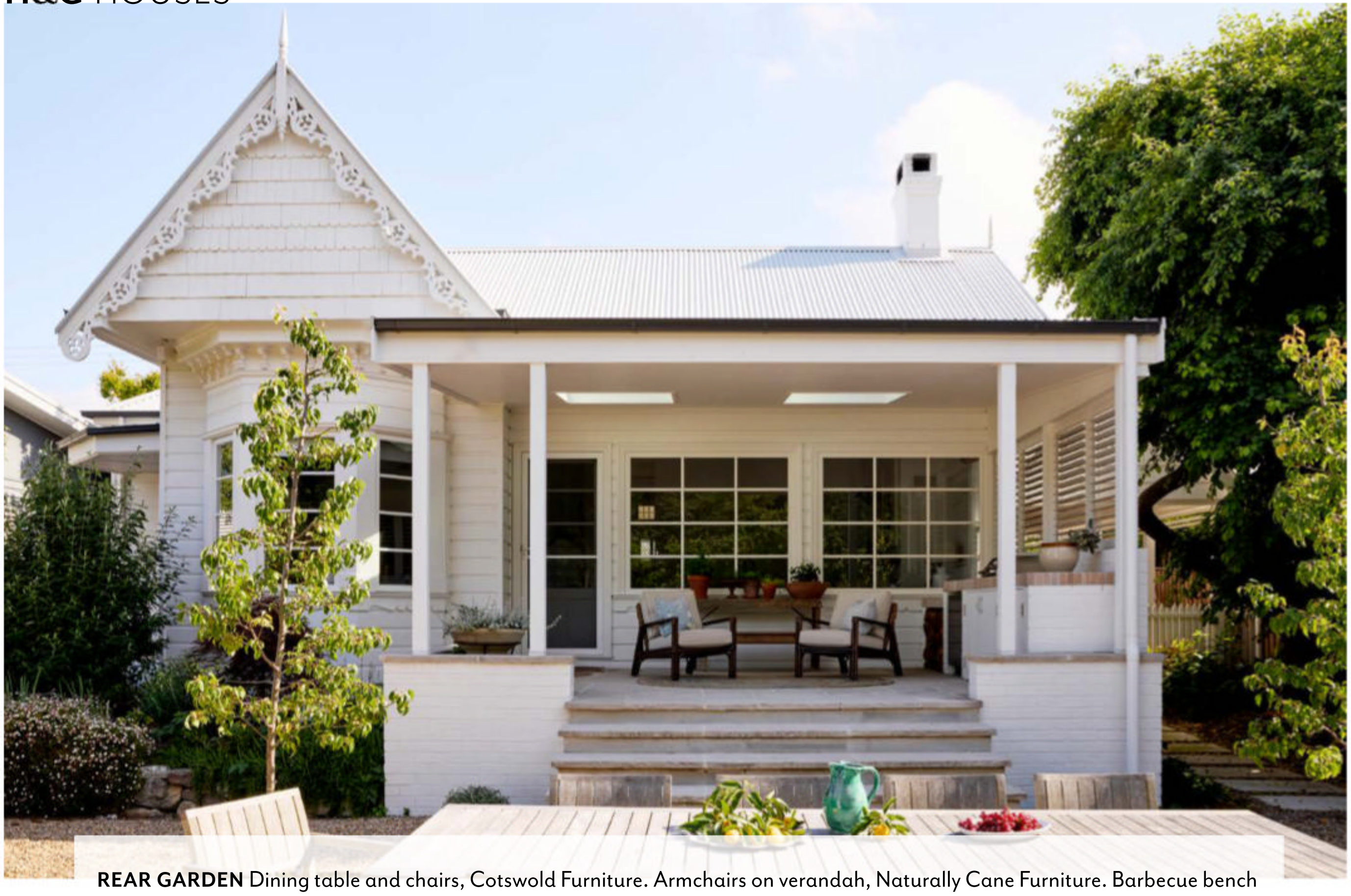


**BEDROOM** Bedhead and roman blinds, Halvorsen Interiors. Lamps and cushion, No Chintz. **GUEST BATHROOM** 'Westminster' bath, Cass Brothers. 'Manhattan' tapware in Rumbled Brass Organic, Brodware. Owner's stool. Floor tiles, Tile Cloud.

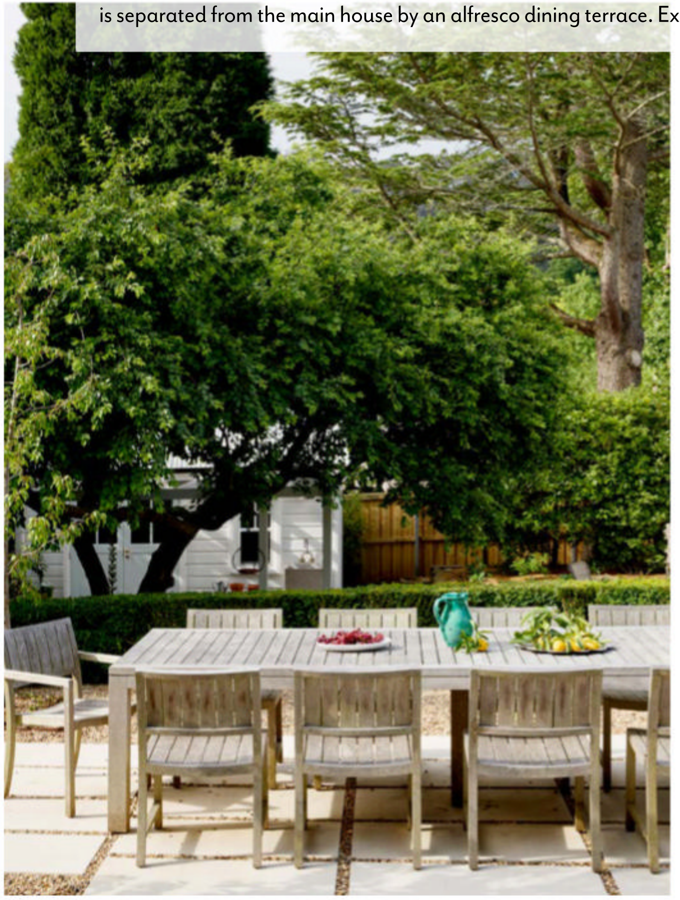


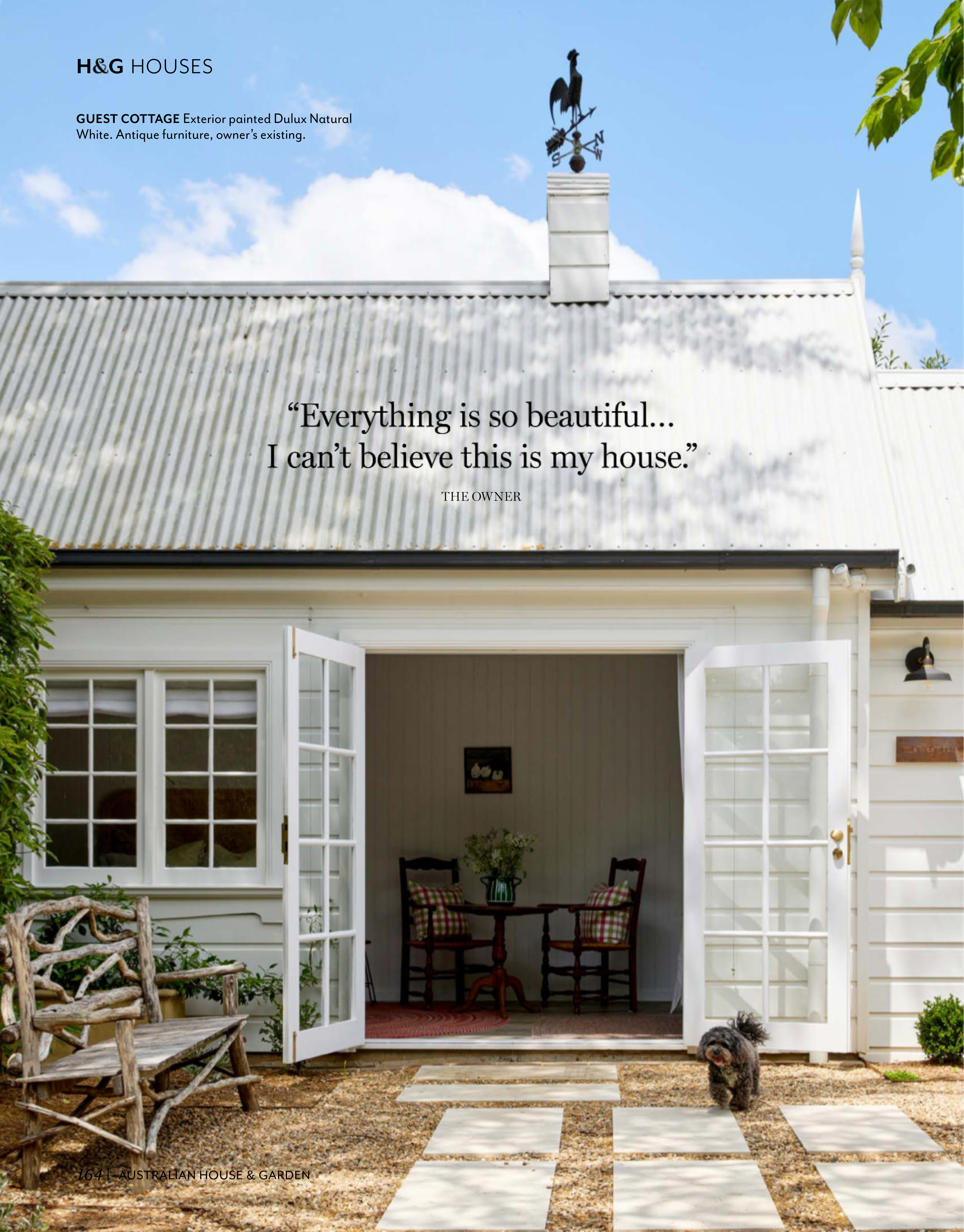
“The house had beautiful bones but needed to be refreshed in a sympathetic way.”

SALLY WILKINS , INTERIOR DESIGNER



**REAR GARDEN** Dining table and chairs, Cotswold Furniture. Armchairs on verandah, Naturally Cane Furniture. Barbecue bench in 'Thirroul' terracotta tiles, Tile Cloud. *Below, right* Wall sconce, Barn Light Australia. **GUEST COTTAGE** *Opposite* The guest cottage is separated from the main house by an alfresco dining terrace. Exterior painted Dulux Natural White. Landscaping by Susie Reynolds.



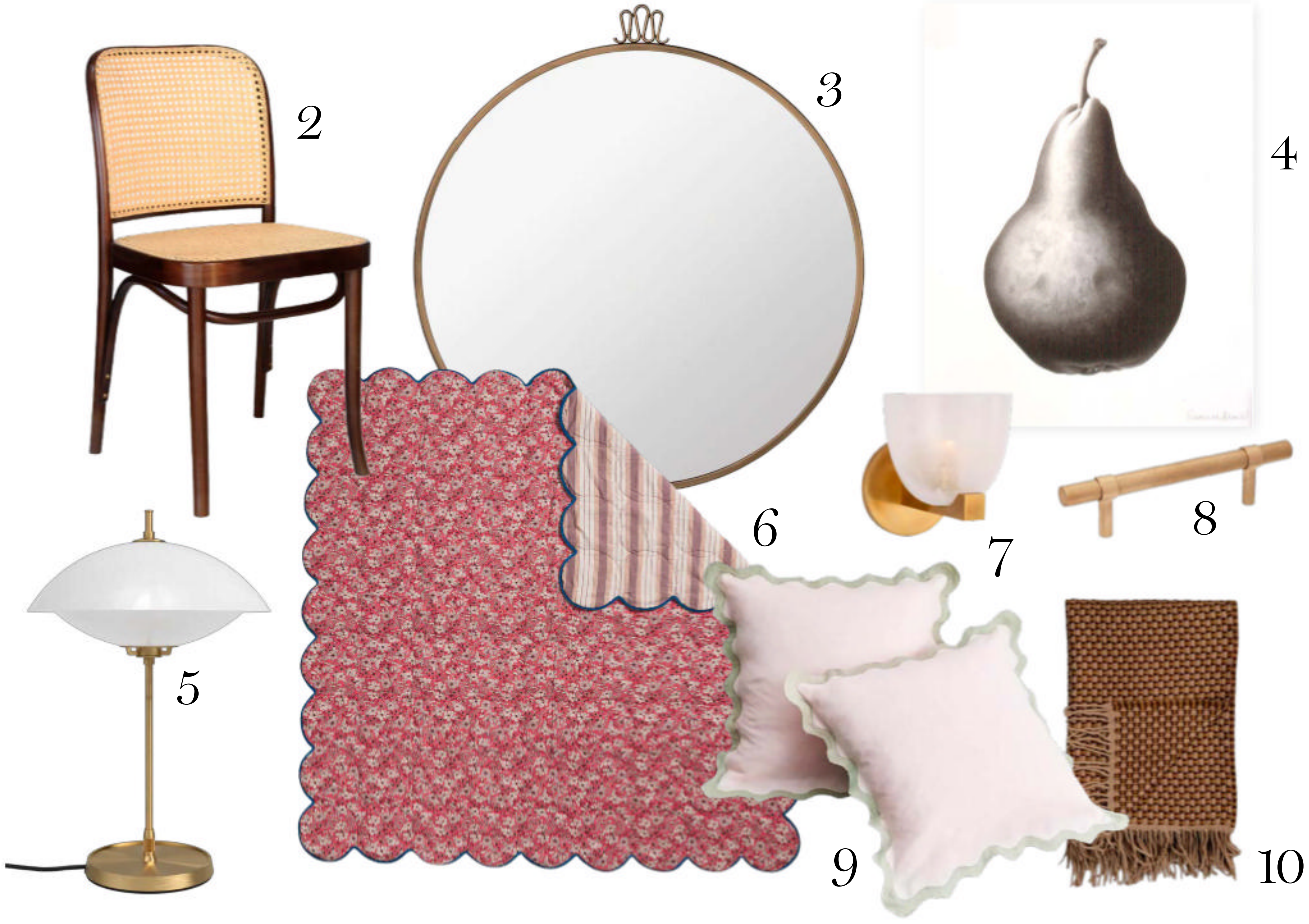


**GUEST COTTAGE** Exterior painted Dulux Natural White. Antique furniture, owner's existing.

> "Everything is so beautiful… I can't believe this is my house."
>
> THE OWNER

# THE SOURCE

*Mix antique-style pieces with patterned prints and weathered brass for a charming cottage-core look.*



**1** 'Selby' **candle holders**, $199/two, McMullin. **2** 'No.811 Hoffmann' **dining chair**, POA, Thonet. **3** Gubi 'Randaccio' **mirror**, from $1499, Cult. **4** *Pear Study 2* **artwork** by Susannah Blaxill, POA, The Shirley Sherwood Gallery. **5** Fritz Hansen 'Clam' **table lamp**, $2540, Cult. **6** Sage & Clare 'Evette' scalloped **quilted coverlet**, $389, Little Cove Collective. **7** Aerin 'Carola' single **sconce**, $840, The Montauk Lighting Co. **8** 'Modi' adjustable **cabinetry pull**, $69.90, ABI Interiors. **9** Scalloped European **pillowcases** in Rosewater & Sage, $140/two, Bed Threads. **10** 'Isak' wool **throw** in Chestnut, $435, Simple Beautiful Things. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

**LIVING** Walls painted Porter's Paints Explorer Blue and Dulux Natural White. Artwork by Alexandra Plim. Curtains in 'Palo' linen blend in Seafoam from James Dunlop Textiles, Bombo Curtains and Blinds. Juno 'Orb' sofa chairs in Desert Speckle, GlobeWest. Kelly Wearstler 'Senso' table lamp, Sainte. Rug, Armadillo. **ENTRY** 'Surface' wall sconce and 'F.ACE' wall hooks, all Studio Henry Wilson.

# Bucolic bliss

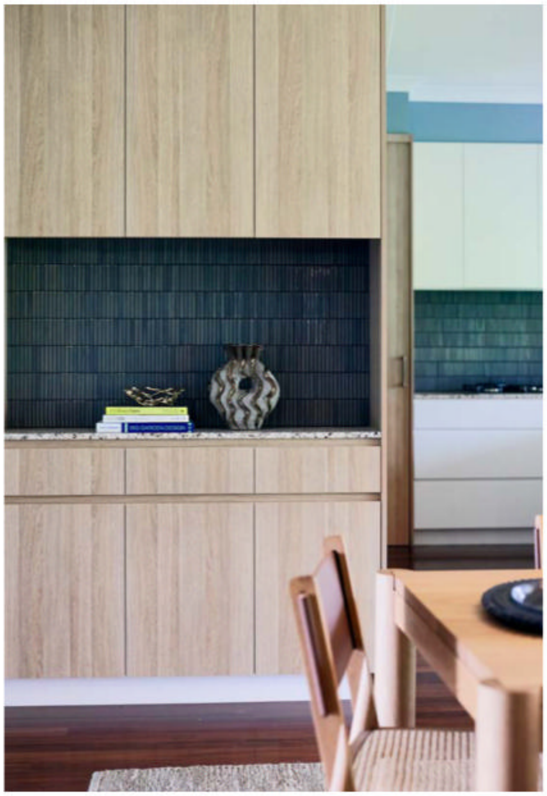
Having an interior designer for a neighbour was kismet for these homeowners, who gained both a beautiful home and great friends.

STORY *Carli Philips* | STYLING *Olga Lewis*
PHOTOGRAPHY *India Hartford Davis*

“It went from a boring, bland house to a modern, luxe farmhouse full of light and colour.”

HENRIETTA SUMMERHAYES, DESIGNER

**KITCHEN** Wall painted Porter’s Paints Explorer Blue. Joinery in Polytec Ravine in Natural Oak and Dulux Natural White, David John Detailed Joinery & Kitchens. Benchtop in Rosaio terrazzo and splashback in ‘Yohen Border’ tiles, all Artedomus. Neff cooktop, Winnings. Vessel by Elena Morgan Strohfeldt.



Henrietta Summerhayes of Henrietta & Co. didn't have to travel very far when she was enlisted to design this holiday home in the Southern Highlands of NSW. Henrietta and her husband, Geoff, had lived side-by-side with the owners, Carolyn and Chris, for years, but they were largely like ships in the night.

"They tended to come up during the week and we went on weekends, so even though we had been neighbours for ages we didn't really see much of each other. But during Covid, we met at the intersection of our farms where we'd light a fire and have some drinks. We called it the 'Paddock Pub' – and it was entirely legal!"

When restrictions eased, Carolyn and Chris invited Henrietta and Geoff to their farmhouse – a property they had purchased in 2016 and casually furnished with art from their Sydney home and furniture bought from the local shops. Renovating was always on the cards but put on the backburner while they focused on farm infrastructure.

"What started as four pet Belted Galloway cows morphed into breeding cattle, which we love," says Carolyn of the unexpected evolution of their farm, which is now home to 60 cows, including 14 calves.

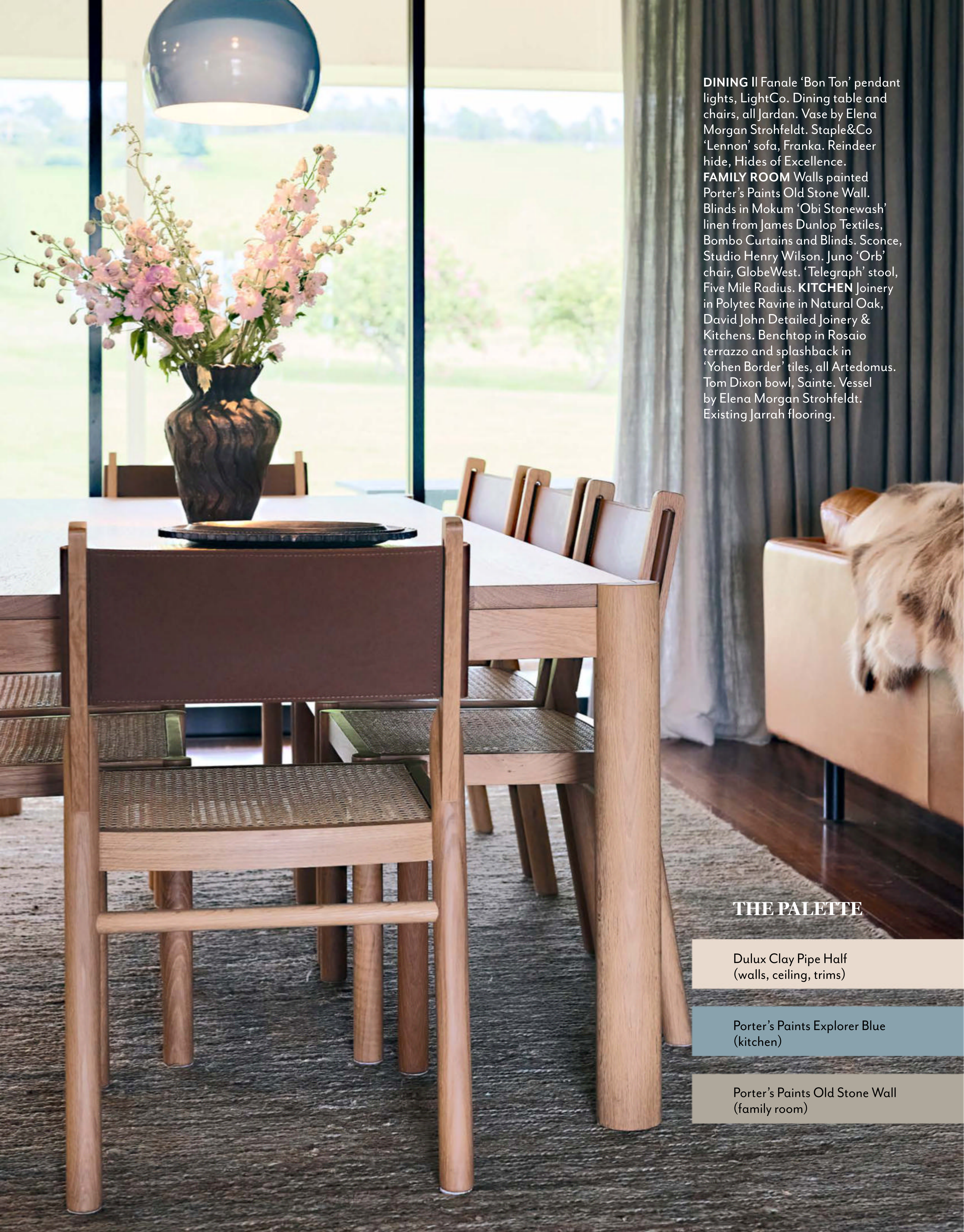
The landscape and location also has a special appeal for Henrietta. "This is dairy country. It's surrounded by lush, mountain escarpments but it's also just a five-minute drive to a beach and there are beautiful ocean breezes," she says. "The westerlies can be strong and we even needed to replace the rattling French doors on Carolyn and Chris's verandah with new floor-to-ceiling windows."

The more time they spent on the property, the more apparent the home's deficiencies became. "It was important that their interiors feel less like a holiday house and more like a home," says Henrietta. "Chris is really delightful but I think he thought we'd just choose a few cushions and some fabric. However, it became a massive transformation – from a boring, bland house into a modern, luxe farmhouse full of light and colour."

The owners largely gave Henrietta free rein and the first thing she tackled was the gyprock, which was like a sea of plain white plasterboard everywhere you looked. To break it up, she added depth with wall panels and dado rails, and drenched the rooms in colour for warmth and vitality without detracting from the view.

The single-level home opens into a short hall followed by an open-plan kitchen, dining and sitting area. Colour-wise, the glazed turquoise INAX 'Yohen Border' kitchen tiles ▶

Paint colours are reproduced as accurately as printing processes allow.



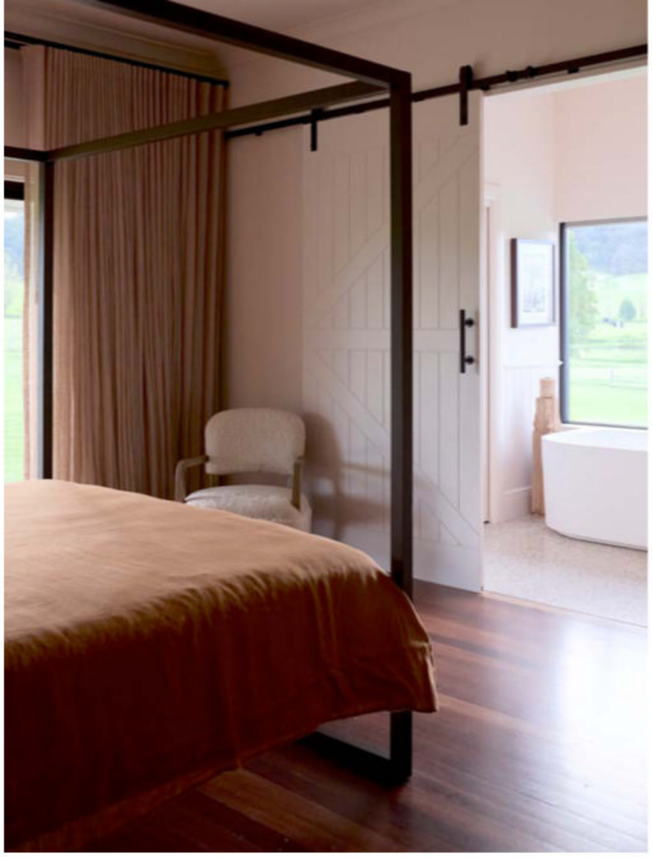
**DINING** Il Fanale 'Bon Ton' pendant lights, LightCo. Dining table and chairs, all Jardan. Vase by Elena Morgan Strohfeldt. Staple&Co 'Lennon' sofa, Franka. Reindeer hide, Hides of Excellence. **FAMILY ROOM** Walls painted Porter's Paints Old Stone Wall. Blinds in Mokum 'Obi Stonewash' linen from James Dunlop Textiles, Bombo Curtains and Blinds. Sconce, Studio Henry Wilson. Juno 'Orb' chair, GlobeWest. 'Telegraph' stool, Five Mile Radius. **KITCHEN** Joinery in Polytec Ravine in Natural Oak, David John Detailed Joinery & Kitchens. Benchtop in Rosaio terrazzo and splashback in 'Yohen Border' tiles, all Artedomus. Tom Dixon bowl, Sainte. Vessel by Elena Morgan Strohfeldt. Existing Jarrah flooring.

## THE PALETTE

Dulux Clay Pipe Half
(walls, ceiling, trims)

Porter's Paints Explorer Blue
(kitchen)

Porter's Paints Old Stone Wall
(family room)

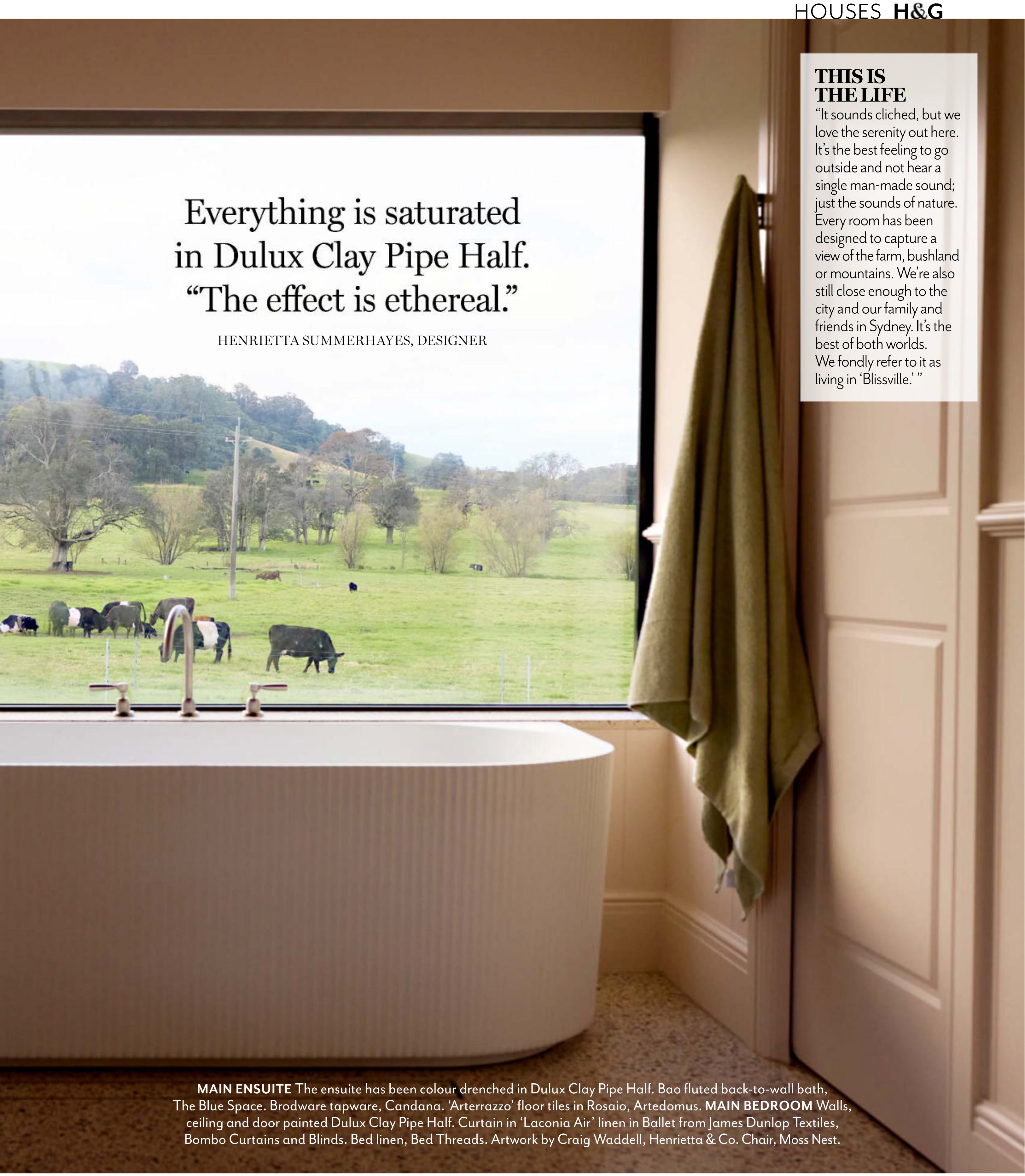


and a pair of 'Bon Ton' pendants from LightCo over the dining table tie back to the walls in Porter's Paints Explorer Blue. In contrast, the furniture is earthy and natural, with a tan leather sofa from Franka furniture, a Jardan timber dining table and various natural hides scattered throughout, including reindeer hides from Scandinavia, shearling and sheepskin. "Hides have been warming humankind for eternity and they're largely a by-product of the meat industry, so I feel good about that. We're using every part of an animal whose life has been taken from us," says Henrietta.

Turning right at the entry, a bathroom adjacent to a bedroom was reconfigured and a vanity replaced with a bath. Bookending the house is the main wing where the walk-in robe and ensuite were shifted to make space for a central bath. Now framed either side with sliding doors, a wet area is contained on one side and a robe on the other. From the joinery to the woodwork, walls and ceiling, everything is saturated in Dulux Clay Pipe Half. "The effect is ethereal," says Henrietta. "It's so calming and heavenly."

At the opposite end of the house, the study and bedroom were combined to form the family room, which can be closed off with a large barn door, while a "hopeless" theatre was transformed into another bedroom and bathroom. Behind the shower, a sliding door provides access to the laundry and mudroom, which open directly to the outside. There aren't many trees on the property, but phase two (likely during spring) will involve landscaping and a new outdoor living area for hosting friends, family and well-deserving neighbours. ▶

***Henrietta & Co:** henrietta.co.*



Everything is saturated in Dulux Clay Pipe Half. “The effect is ethereal.”

HENRIETTA SUMMERHAYES, DESIGNER

## THIS IS THE LIFE

“It sounds cliched, but we love the serenity out here. It’s the best feeling to go outside and not hear a single man-made sound; just the sounds of nature. Every room has been designed to capture a view of the farm, bushland or mountains. We’re also still close enough to the city and our family and friends in Sydney. It’s the best of both worlds. We fondly refer to it as living in ‘Blissville.’ ”

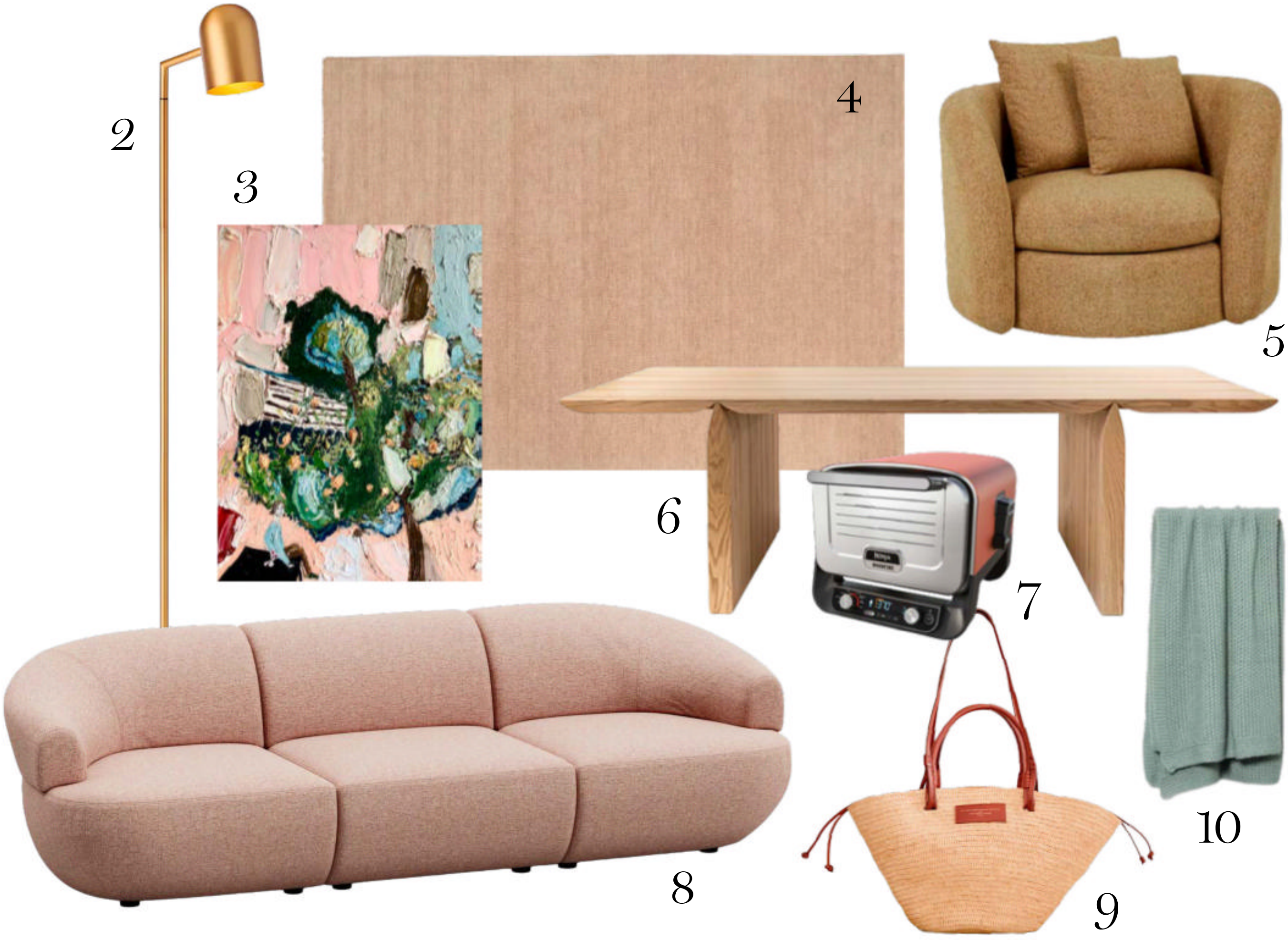
**MAIN ENSUITE** The ensuite has been colour drenched in Dulux Clay Pipe Half. Bao fluted back-to-wall bath, The Blue Space. Brodware tapware, Candana. ‘Arterrazzo’ floor tiles in Rosaio, Artedomus. **MAIN BEDROOM** Walls, ceiling and door painted Dulux Clay Pipe Half. Curtain in ‘Laconia Air’ linen in Ballet from James Dunlop Textiles, Bombo Curtains and Blinds. Bed linen, Bed Threads. Artwork by Craig Waddell, Henrietta & Co. Chair, Moss Nest.

> “Because we’re neighbours, our friendship gave us more time to gauge how they were experiencing the house.”
>
> HENRIETTA SUMMERHAYES, DESIGNER

**MAIN BEDROOM** Walls, ceiling and door painted Dulux Clay Pipe Half. Curtain in 'Laconia Air' linen in Ballet from James Dunlop Textiles, Bombo Curtains and Blinds. Barn door hardware, Lo&Co. Bed linen, Bed Threads. Artwork by Craig Waddell, Henrietta & Co. 'Strand' bedside table and bed, Uniqwa Collections. 'Finlay' desk lamp, Manyara Home. Chair, Moss Nest Storey. **REAR BATHROOM** Bao 'Elegant' back-to-wall bath, basin and shaving cabinet, all The Blue Space. 'Arterrazzo' wall and floor tiles in Ziani, Artedomus. Brodware tapware and towel holder in Brushed Nickel, all Candana. Kado 'Neue' vanity, Reece. French flax linen towel in Sage, Bed Threads. **LAUNDRY/MUDROOM** This newly created space opens to the outdoors and has handy floor-to-ceiling joinery for storage. Dulux High Tea adds a confident splash of rich green to the upper walls and ceiling.

# THE SOURCE

*Introduce a sense of calm into your home with soft shades and textures that invite peace and relaxation.*



1 Sophie Davis 'Twister' **lamp**, $2200, The Undone. 2 'Arlene' **floor lamp**, $490, Trit House. 3 *Jessula & sharing a tree with neighbours* **artwork** by Mitchell Cheesman, $3850, Curatorial+Co. 4 'Isadore' **rug** in Camel (350x250cm), $2595, Coco Republic. 5 Juno 'Orb' **sofa chair** in Desert Speckle, $3315, GlobeWest. 6 'Libra' **dining table**, POA, Fanuli. 7 Woodfire **outdoor oven**, $599.99, Ninja. 8 'Aura' three-seater **modular sofa** in Byron Blush, $6720, King Living. 9 'Justine' **basket bag** in Natural Raffia, $460, Sézane. 10 Australian House & Garden 'Norwood' **throw** in Eucalyptus, $199.95, Myer. **H&G**

Produced by Marissa Foye.

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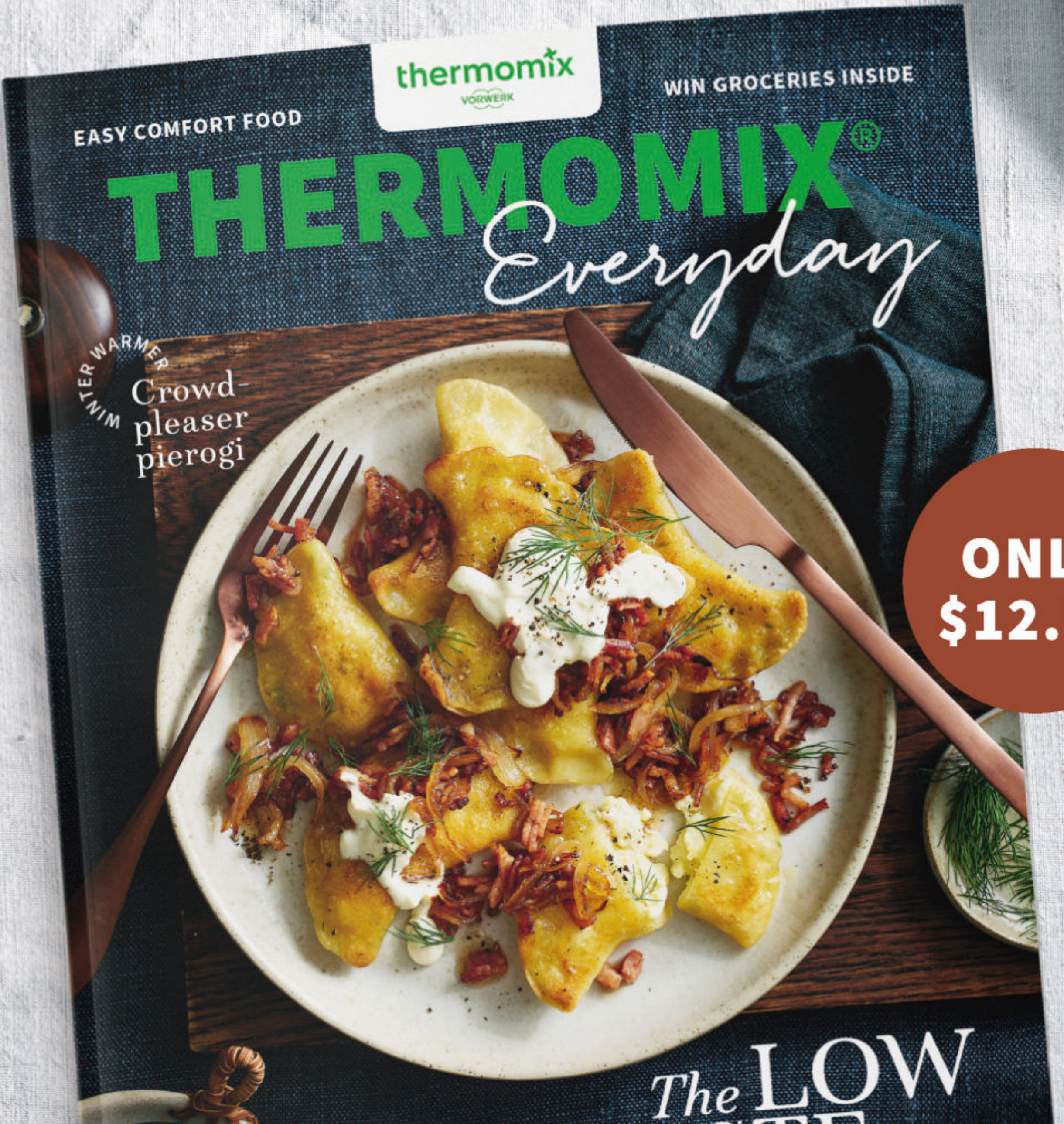
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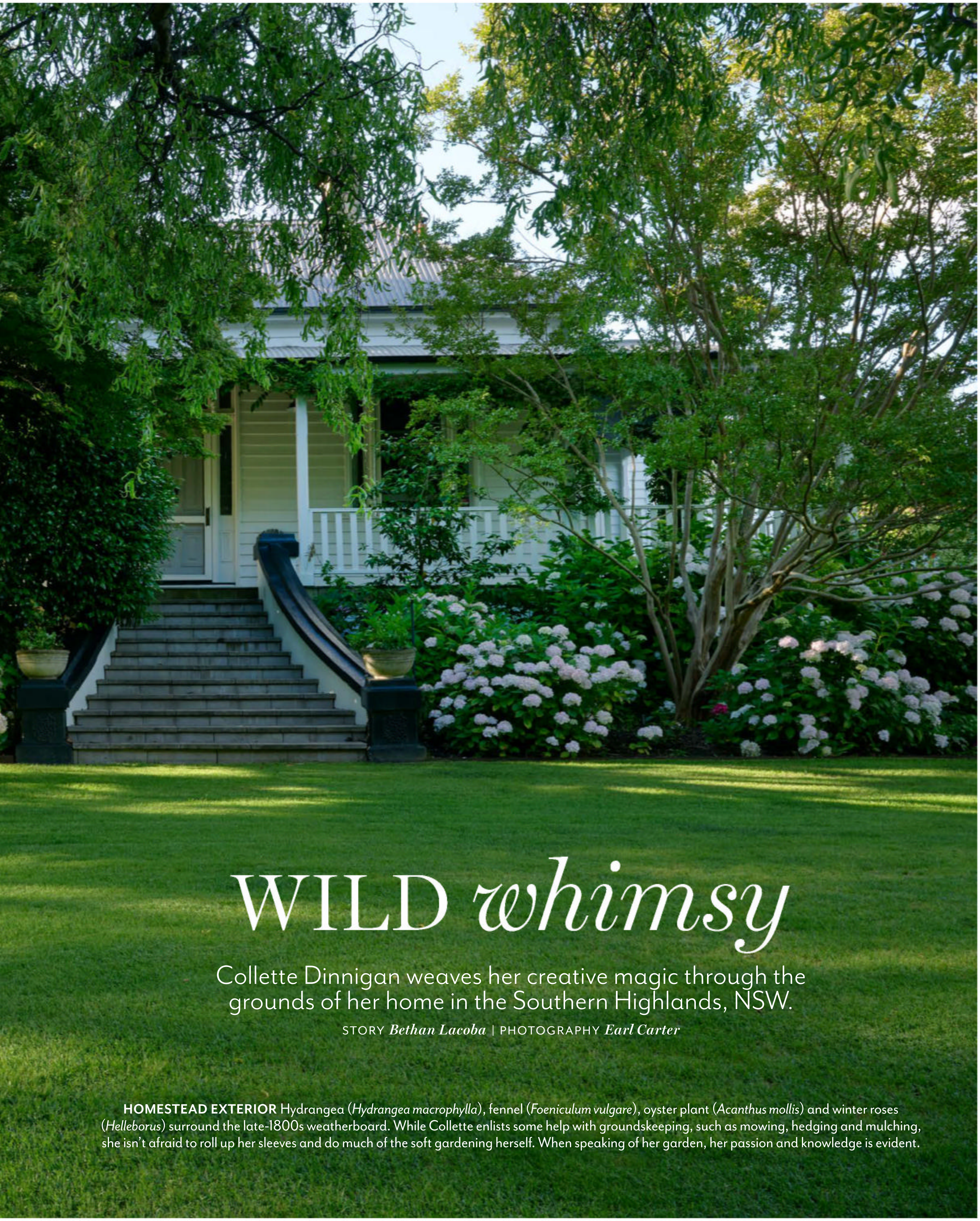
# Gardens

## ABUNDANT BEAUTY AND SEASONAL CHARM

**AT HOME WITH COLLETTE** A labour of love, the flowerbeds in Collette Dinnigan's expansive Bowral gardens have been carefully planted and reseeded by the designer over the years. Among her favourites are hydrangeas, adding fullness to the garden and also often indoors, when cut and arranged in vases.



# WILD *whimsy*

Collette Dinnigan weaves her creative magic through the grounds of her home in the Southern Highlands, NSW.

STORY ***Bethan Lacoba*** | PHOTOGRAPHY ***Earl Carter***

**HOMESTEAD EXTERIOR** Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), oyster plant (*Acanthus mollis*) and winter roses (*Helleborus*) surround the late-1800s weatherboard. While Collette enlists some help with groundskeeping, such as mowing, hedging and mulching, she isn't afraid to roll up her sleeves and do much of the soft gardening herself. When speaking of her garden, her passion and knowledge is evident.

When designer Collette Dinnigan purchased her homestead in Bowral, NSW, in 2018, the garden wasn't at all remarkable. "There were a few hydrangea bushes and some well-established trees," she recalls of the two-hectare property. However, while she wasn't well-versed in garden design at the time, she ploughed ahead and tapped into her intuitive style to create her own Eden, striking a balance between chaos and order.

"I wanted my garden to be charming, enchanting, whimsical, kind of effortless, and to feel just natural. But on the other hand, I'm quite structured. I like borders and I like the lawn to start where the garden ends. So, I contradict myself, actually!"

Collette's dear friend, the late Harriette Conway, helped carve out some order early on. "She was a garden designer," says Collette. "She drew a plan so that, initially, when I wanted to plant roses, we had some structure to work from." On her friend's advice and aided by gardeners, Collette removed an old gravel road that once ran past the house, along with a layer of clay, then aerated the earth. "We made a worm farm and added new topsoil – we really started from scratch."

While making tasteful updates to her late-1800s weatherboard, Collette slowly transformed the entire grounds, replacing a tennis court with a pool and a wisteria-laden cabana. She converted a barn into a guesthouse, and a garage into a cottage for her daughter Estella. "Around her little cottage, I've put in stepped-down garden beds and planted English lavender and rosemary," says Collette. The main house is wrapped with a wisteria-framed verandah. "It's absolutely stunning in spring!" An outdoor pizza oven, an orchard and a vegetable garden complete the romantic scene.

While, sadly, Collette and Harriette never finished many of the plans they'd discussed before Harriette's passing, her friend's legacy lives on in the seasonal cycle of Collette's flowerbeds. "I wanted the garden to be flowering all year." Harriette shared her knowledge so that the designer's dream could come to life. "In February all the windmill daisies come up and suddenly the garden is all white," says Collette. "There are so many different layers – she was excellent at that. I now know what flowers when."

These days, Collette's garden is ever-changing, each season bringing different colours and varieties, many of which she loves to gather and display in vases indoors. "In winter, I'll cut a huge bunch of rosemary and put it in the kitchen. When I have to prune the plum trees, I'll keep some of the blossoms for the house in spring," she says. While June and early winter is quiet on the flower front, mid-winter sees an abundance of jonquils (*Narcissus jonquilla*) blooming, with winter roses (*Helleborus*) arriving in July. Tulips breakthrough in August, with daffodils, ranunculus and delphiniums flowering next.

The garden comes alive in spring. Foxgloves line the driveway with blossoming apple, plum and pear trees. Then October brings a burst of colourful poppies. "Over summer the house is filled with roses and hydrangeas," says Collette, of her favourites. As autumn sets in, gardens are cut back and the cycle begins again.

"I try to plant for all seasons," she says. "There's so much to be said of harvesting seeds – you end up with the most beautiful, organic garden. For instance, on Anzac Day I plant poppies. I harvest all their seeds in November-December. I do the same with fennel, Queen Anne's lace and catnip, and throw the seeds back into the garden at the beginning of autumn. In summer, every year now, it becomes so congested. But it is so beautiful."

> "I HAVE SPENT YEARS PLANTING AND RESEEDING THE FLOWERBEDS."
>
> *Collette Dinnigan, owner*

After dabbling in broccoli planting (Collette found invading caterpillars hard to vanquish with her regular stints away), she's found success in herbs, celery, rocket, artichokes, leeks, spring onions and broad beans. Bringing "a touch of the Italian life", basil and tomatoes thrive in summer.

On rotation on her kitchen-garden menu you'll find celery juice, fennel tea (made from dried harvested seeds), broad bean bruschetta with goat's cheese and thyme, pasta with passata made from harvested tomatoes, and a particular favourite, anchovy-sage leaf: "I dip it in rice flour and soda water and fry it, then put salt and saffron on top – it's so delicious!"

Collette has created an enchanted, rambling wonderland. "Every time I leave I think, 'This is so much work!'" she admits, as she often travels. "But each time I arrive I think, 'This is home.' It's just so beautiful and extraordinary." **H&G**

*Collette Dinnigan: collettedinnigan.com.*

**IN FULL BLOOM** *Top left* Roses leading down to Estella's cottage. "The rose garden is chaotic. I've chosen a lot of them on smell. It's very scented, with lots of David Austins." *Top right* Hydrangeas bloom at the entrance of the home. *Bottom right* Perhaps influenced by her fashion background, Collette has found she's naturally planted in colours. "A lot of it is disorganised and chaotic, but there is a theme of colours that comes up at times. When all the foxgloves come out, it's white, when the lavender, salvia and catnip come out, it's all lilac." *Bottom left* Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) flowers.

## PLANT LIST

### TREES

Birch (*Betula*)

Ornamental pear (*Pyrus ussuriensis*)

Pencil pine (*Cupressus sempervirens glauca*)

Plum tree (*Prunus domestica*)

### SHRUBS

English lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*)

Roses (*Rosa*)

Salvia (*Salvia*)

### PERENNIALS

Winter rose (*Helleborus*)

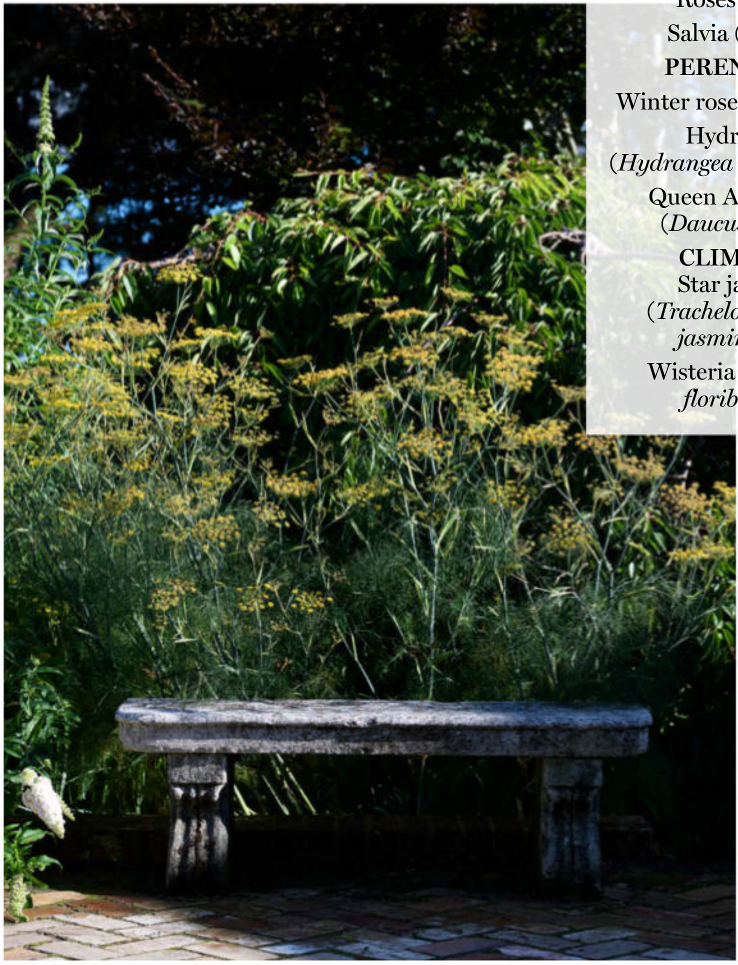
Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*)

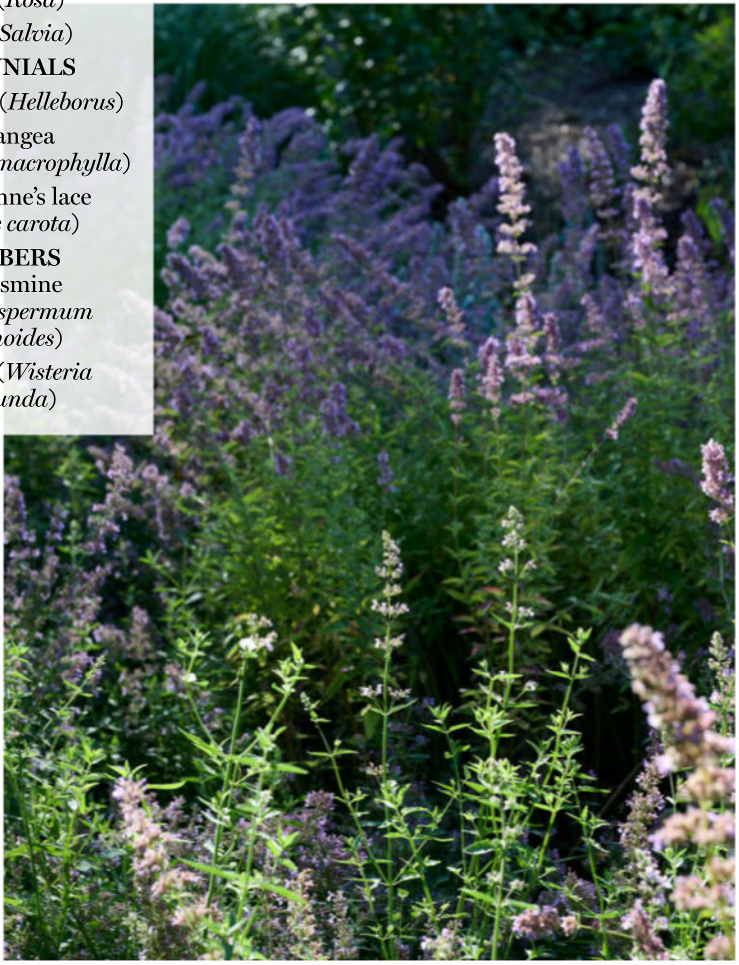
Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*)

### CLIMBERS

Star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)

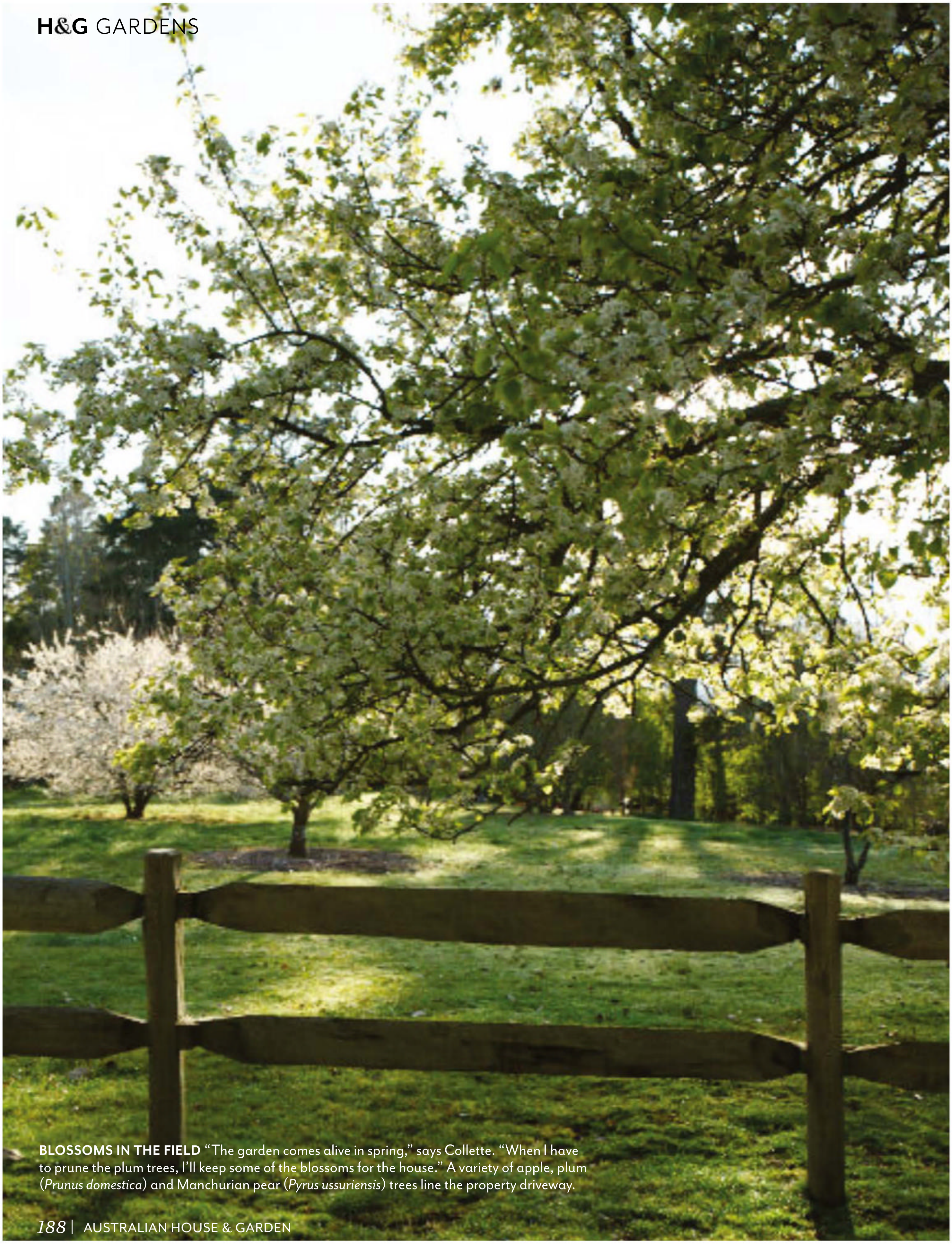
Wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*)





**COTTAGE GARDEN**
The property comprises several dwellings, including a main homestead and nearby cottage for Collette's daughter, Estella. "Estella's cottage is beautiful – very enchanting." The main home wraps around a central courtyard. English lavender and rosemary are fragrant partners to flowering fennel, salvia, catnip and lush vines, growing with wild abandon around the cottages.

**POOL HOUSE** Collette sourced vintage items, market finds, family treasures and new pieces to create a lived-in charm. "When I found these old Egyptian shutters, I knew they were destined for the pool house. The trellis is festooned in purple wisteria come spring," she writes in her book, *Bellissima*. Rose bushes hug the pool fence and wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*) grows overhead.



**BLOSSOMS IN THE FIELD** "The garden comes alive in spring," says Collette. "When I have to prune the plum trees, I'll keep some of the blossoms for the house." A variety of apple, plum (*Prunus domestica*) and Manchurian pear (*Pyrus ussuriensis*) trees line the property driveway.

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**EVERGREEN** The lush lawn at Collette's Bowral property leads down to the barn and paddock beyond.

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1

2

3

4

THYME
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5

6

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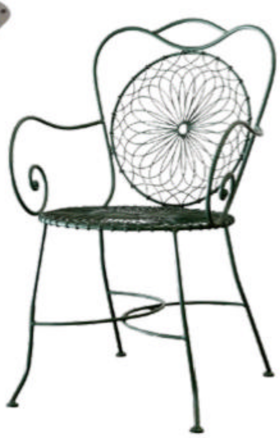

**1** 'Ava' iron frame window-style **mirror** (182cm), $2139, LivingStyles. **2** Icon Chef handwoven **carry basket** (46cm), $109.95, Kitchen Warehouse. **3** Barebones artisan **pruning shears**, $54.95, Backyard Botanist. **4** Little Veggie Patch Co 'Garden Thyme' organic **seeds**, $6, Backyard Botanist. **5** 'Baxter' **planters**, $219/small, $439/large, Domayne. **6** *Bellissima* **book** by Collette Dinnigan, $100, David Jones. **7** Ninja woodfire outdoor perforated **pizza peel**, $29.99, Harvey Norman. **8** Sophie Conran **garden fork**, $55, Aura Home. **9** 'Monument' outdoor **dining table**, $2999, Domayne. **10** 'Fleur' outdoor **dining chair**, POA, Lincoln Brooks. **H&G**

Produced by Bethan Lacoba. Photograph (opposite) by Earl Carter.

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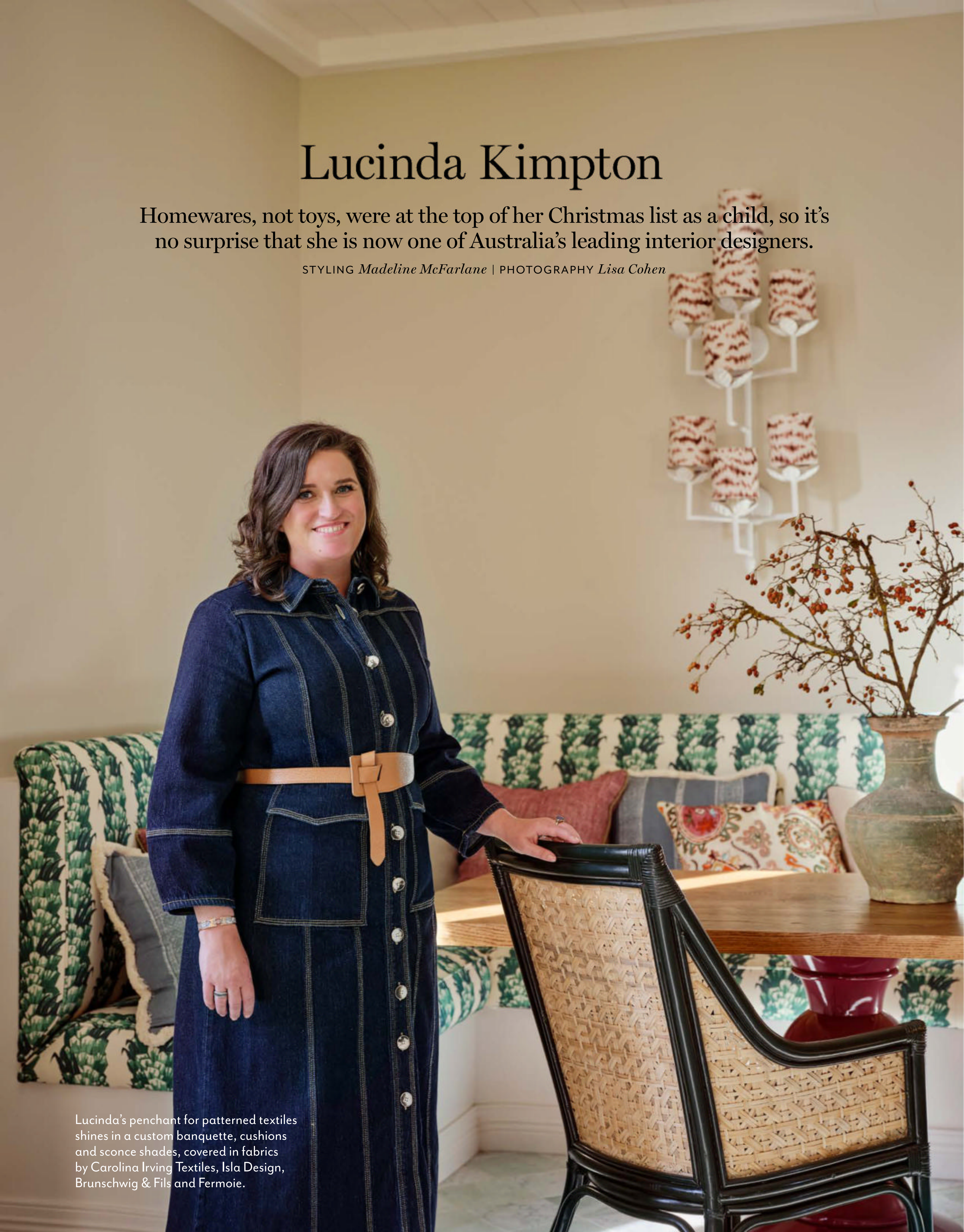
# Lucinda Kimpton

Homewares, not toys, were at the top of her Christmas list as a child, so it's no surprise that she is now one of Australia's leading interior designers.

STYLING *Madeline McFarlane* | PHOTOGRAPHY *Lisa Cohen*



Lucinda's penchant for patterned textiles shines in a custom banquette, cushions and sconce shades, covered in fabrics by Carolina Irving Textiles, Isla Design, Brunschwig & Fils and Fermoie.

> *"I feel proud of the life I've shaped – one where both creativity and motherhood can thrive side by side."*

***I grew up in a Victorian home in Hawthorn in Melbourne*** during the 1980s, a time when pastel palettes reigned supreme. Our interiors reflected that era – my bedroom was a classic mix of soft blue and yellow, and our sitting room was styled around a Designers Guild fabric – a favourite of mine – with apricot-toned walls. From a young age, my mother encouraged me to be involved in decorating decisions – I remember choosing the fabric for my curtains and bedspread with great excitement. I even persuaded her to let me have a wrought-iron bed. While most children were asking for Barbies or Cabbage Patch Kids, I was requesting homewares for Christmas. It was clear early on that design brought me joy.

***Every day looks a little different***. Mondays begin with admin and delegation, followed by design work in the afternoon. Tuesdays are about collaborating with my senior designers. Wednesdays are dedicated to being Mum. Thursdays are reserved for sourcing and creative development, and Fridays are my 'anchor' office day – design work, team check-ins and touching base with the shop.

***The biggest challenge in my career*** was learning to truly back myself. Like many creatives, I experienced moments of imposter syndrome, but over time, I've come to realise the strength of my own voice and vision. Once I moved past that internal barrier, everything expanded. I now approach my work with clarity, conviction and an ever-growing sense of possibility. That confidence has become one of my greatest tools.

***Even the smallest milestones have been meaningful***, they've all shaped the path to where I am now. That said, I recently completed a project in Warrnambool that I'm particularly proud of. But honestly, that feeling tends to return at the end of every project. As creatives, we pour so much of ourselves into our work – it's not just time and effort, it's heart and soul. Each finished project feels like a quiet triumph.

***With two young daughters, life is certainly a juggle***, but it has a rhythm I've come to embrace. Work brings me genuine fulfilment, and that, in turn, energises me as a mother. My daughters are my greatest motivators; they inspire me to give my best to everything I take on. While balance can look different from week to week, I feel proud of the life I've shaped – one where both creativity and motherhood can thrive side by side.

***Nature is a constant source of inspiration.*** There's something about its rhythm and beauty that recharges me. I also find great joy in immersing myself in beautiful architecture and thoughtfully designed interiors; they remind me why I do what I do. But perhaps the greatest creative reset comes from stepping away from it all – spending unhurried time with my daughters and close friends. That's when I feel most grounded.

***Stephen Akehurst stands out as my favourite Australian architectural designer.*** His work is timeless and thoughtful. I've also long admired Thomas Hamel, not only for his elegant designs but for the grace with which he carries himself. I remember attending his book launch back in 2010, when I was an interior design assistant to another high-profile designer. Despite a room full of Melbourne's society, he took the time to speak with me personally. I felt like I was the only one there. Afterward, I sent him a thank-you letter – and to my surprise, he wrote back. Just this week, as I was packing up my house to move, I came across that card and it reminded me how generosity of spirit is impactful.

***I'm currently reading*** **The Let Them Theory** by Mel Robbins for the second time. It resonated so deeply, I felt compelled to revisit it.

***True luxury, for me, is being enveloped in beauty that doesn't shout***, but gently whispers comfort and grace. It's the quiet joy of being in a space where every detail has been thoughtfully considered. It's feeling held in the company of people who lift your spirits, in a home that reflects who you truly are.

***In my twenties, I lived and worked in Armação de Pêra, Portugal, for six months.*** I was introduced to everything from historic ceramic makers to beachside restaurants serving fish caught that very morning. Experiences off the typical tourist track deeply inspire my appreciation for authentic craftsmanship.

***Redesigning Melbourne's Government House is definitely on my ultimate wishlist.*** Beyond that, I'm eager to be a part of another showhouse and publish a book. I'm excited about making them happen in the future.

***I work on the doorstep of Hawksburn Village in Melbourne,*** a treasure trove of culinary delights. For the best in French cuisine, Bistro Thierry is unbeatable. But my daily indulgence is a coffee from Mabel's. The fun vibe always lifts my spirits and sets me up for the day. **H&G**

*Kimpton Interiors: kimptoninteriors.com.au.*

**LUCINDA'S FAVOURITE THINGS**
*From top Joanna Logue Bulrushes* **artwork**, $3900, Scott Livesey Galleries. 'Longwood' **table** in Grey Oak, POA, Cromwell. 'Alina' decorative **velvets**, Manuel Canovas Paris. Anduze **pot**, POA, Graham Geddes Antiques.

**Erica** design Antonio Citterio

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